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The Hongkong Telegraph

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December 24, 1917, Temperature 6 a.m. 59 2 p.m. 79
Humidity 79

December 24, 1916, Temperature 6 a.m. 63 2 p.m. 65
Humidity 88

WEATHER FORECAST
FAIR.

Barometer 29.97.

7837 日一十月一十

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1917.

一拜禮 四廿月二十英港香

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REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

AFFAIRS IN RUSSIA.

The Constituent Assembly Elections.

London, December 21.

Reuter's correspondent at Petrograd, telegraphing on December 21, says that the results of 377 elections for the Constituent Assembly are known to include 209 Social Revolutionaries, 107 Maximists, 23 Ukrainian Social Revolutionaries, and 12 Cadets.

The breach between the Commissioners of the People and the Executive of the Railway Union is growing and the latter have transferred their headquarters to Moscow, where the Soviet has now proclaimed martial law. Despite the martial law in Petrograd, the sacking of wine stores continues, accompanied by orgies, looting and much shooting. Armoured cars have dispersed the participants in pogroms in the streets. The Commissioners of the People have confiscated the property of a mining company which refused to submit to the decree establishing workmen's control of production.

The Petrograd Pravda states that hundreds of proclamations, signed by the so-called International Workers, have been found at the residence of a Cadet Professor in connection with an anti-Revolution plot.

Situation in Poland and Finland.

London, December 22.

The Daily Mail correspondent at Petrograd says that German soldiers in Poland are practically unaffected by the fraternising. Individual soldiers have refused to carry out orders, but examples have been made and discipline has been restored. The Bolshevik troops sent to Kief have held up and broken the railway. Serious rioting has broken out about Finland.

The Cossacks' Plans.

London, December 22.

The Times correspondent at Petrograd says that M. Kerensky's War Minister, M. Verkhovsky, has offered his services to the Ukraine Government, whose troops, under General Tcherbasheff, are concentrating between Homel and Bakhosch, while the Bolsheviks are concentrating at Minsk. General Duff, at the head of a force of Cossacks and Tatars, has arrived at Ufa, where he suppressed the Bolshevik organisations and is now advancing against Tarsatff and Samara. General Kaledin and the Cossack Military Government have resigned in order to allow the formation of a strong and popular Government. General Kaledin declares that he withdraws owing to his unpopularity with the troops at the front, who refuse to obey him in consequence of misrepresentations by his enemies. He sacrifices his interests to those of his country.

Russia's Invitation to Other Allies.

London, December 22.

The Times correspondent at Petrograd says it is reported from Brest-Litovsk that German representatives have emphasised the desirability of all belligerents participating in peace negotiations and that it was accordingly decided to invite France, Great Britain, Italy and the United States to send delegates to participate in the negotiations. The Germans are disposed to accept the principle of no annexations and no indemnities, but have made reservations regarding the right of nationalities to dispose of themselves.

Ukraine's Stand.

London, December 22.

According to Reuter's correspondent at Petrograd, the Pravda states that Ukrainian troops have occupied the headquarters of all the St. R. on the Rumanian and South-Western Fronts, seizing the telegraph and wireless plant. The two fronts are now united into a single Ukrainian front, of which General Tcherbasheff is Commander-in-Chief. All the Cossacks in Ukraine have been ordered to mobilise. All the Ukrainian Soviets, Peasants' Councils and Deputies are supporting the Rada. Ukraine is now issuing its own paper money.

M. Trotsky announces that the landed property of foreigners is subject to confiscation, the same as Russian.

INTRIGUE IN AMERICA.

Foodstuffs for Germany.

London, December 23.

The Federal Agents at Brooklyn have arrested Gustav Myers who came to the United States at the outbreak of war. He is charged with exporting foodstuffs to the value of hundreds of thousands of dollars to Germany, via Sweden. The most recent export was last week.

Conspiracy Against Canada.

London, December 23.

Reuter's correspondent at New York states that five defendants, including two women, have been convicted of conspiracy at Detroit Federal Court for conducting military enterprises in the United States against Canada, and specifically attempting to destroy Windsor Armouries and the tunnel at Port Huron.

THE ITALIAN FRONT.

Further Progress by Italians.

London, December 23.

An Italian official message states:—Despite adverse atmospheric conditions in the Mount Asolone region, we progressed and repulsed counter-attacks.

A German Story.

London, December 23.

A German wireless official message states:—Italian attacks in the afternoon and evening on Mount Asolone and heights to the west were unsuccessful.

ON THE WESTERN FRONT.

More German Casualties.

London, December 23.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, in a communique, states:—We inflicted casualties on patrols in encounters southward of Cambrai. There is increased activity by hostile artillery from Armentieres to Langemarck.

Artillery Activity.

London, December 23.

A Paris communique states that there is artillery firing at various places, including the Thur and Doller regions in Upper Alsace.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

AIR RAID ATTEMPT.

Kentish Coast Venture Fails.

London, December 23.

An official message says that an air raid was attempted at six o'clock in the evening on the Kentish Coast. One raider was forced to descend near the coast and the crew were captured alive. The second attack developed at 9.30. A few bombs were dropped on the Thanet, but there were no casualties or damage.

THE PALESTINE CAMPAIGN.

Further Points Seized by the British.

London, December 23.

A Palestine official message says:—Our troops, crossing the Nabrelanja at midnight on December 20 on rafts and light bridges, seized Khurbethadrah, Suelkousan, Telserrek K-it and El-makhras, near the river mouth, capturing 305 prisoners. Other forces captured Raszzimby, north-east of Bethany, beating off three counter-attacks. The captures since the commencement of the operations are 99 guns, 400 limbers and waggons, 110 machine guns, 7,000 rifles, and a large quantity of ammunition and stores.

The Mount of Olives.

London, December 23.

Reuter's correspondent at the Army Headquarters in Palestine states that the Mount of Olives makes the most wonderful observation post in the world, the clear atmosphere causing 6,000 yards off to look like a pistol shot away. The River Jordan's winding course is clearly visible and motor boats skimming on the Dead Sea are also clearly seen.

PREMIER'S APPEAL TO FARMERS.

London, December 23.

Mr. Lloyd George, addressing a conference of the War Agricultural Committee, said that the struggle had largely become a question of tonnage, therefore Home production must be intensified. We wanted three million acres cultivated and they had got a hundred days to accomplish the task. The Government hoped to release skilled ploughmen from the Army. It had been decided to facilitate the employment of prisoners of war. He appealed for the greater use of women on farms. There would be eight thousand tractors working in the middle of March. He urged the County Committees to deal ruthlessly with farmers not making the best of their land. In order to compensate for the loss of ships, many imports must be cut down. The deficiency in food must be made up; otherwise the fibre of the race would deteriorate, as had already happened in Germany.

ARMED BRITISH STEAMER TORPEDOED.

London, December 23.

An Admiralty announcement states that the British armed boarding steamer, Stephen Farness, has been torpedoed and sunk in the Irish Channel. Six officers and ninety-five men were lost.

KRUPPS REPORTED AFIRE.

London, December 23.

According to Reuter's correspondent at Amsterdam, there is an unconfirmed but circumstantial report that Krupps is afire.

AUSTRALIA AND CONSCRIPTION.

London, December 23.

A telegram from Melbourne states that the latest referendum figures are:—Against Conscription, 922,000; for, 749,000. The figures are not yet complete.

EARLIER TELEGRAM.

CHRISTMAS PEACE OVERTURES.

Washington, December 22.

Mr. Lansing, commenting on the purported German Christmas peace overtures circulated here through "neutral channels," said that no information thereof had reached the State Department. The attitude of the United States was unchanged, being in accord with the Allies' terms of restoration and reparation by Germany.

A BOLSHIEVICK COUP.

Petrograd, December 21.

The Red Guards at 3 a.m. surrounded and invaded the premises of the Ukraine Revolutionary Staff and arrested the four members present. Search was instituted for other members of the Staff, which constituted the sole official representatives of the Rada in Petrograd.

THE SILVER MARKET.

London, December 20.

Silver, quoted at 43½, has small offerings and a steady market. Messrs. Montagu and Co.'s report states:—As usual at this season the trade demand is inactive, so, pending fresh developments regarding the important purchases projected by the British and American Governments, the market remains quiet. The Shanghai exchange has strengthened further, the latest quotation being 4/4 per tael. The Indian silver holding continues to shrink.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE WESTERN FRONT.

Enemy Attempts Fail.

London, December 22.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports: We repulsed raiders at night in the neighbourhood of the Bapaume-Cambrai road, eastward of Monchy-le-Preux and south-eastward of Armentieres.

A French communique states: Artillery is active in the region of Courrieres-Wood. In Alsace an attempt to rush our trenches west of Cernay was repulsed. At Hartmannswillerkopf the enemy after a very big raid occupied advanced elements of the front line, but was completely ejected after hand to hand fighting in which he lost heavily. A hundred and eighteen shells were thrown on Rheims.

Orders to U. S. Troops.

London, December 22.

Reuter's correspondent with the American Army in France says: General Pershing has issued a proclamation to the troops inviting them to liberally subscribe to the French War Loan. General Pershing has issued stringent regulations regarding liquor and immorality. All alcoholic beverages except light wines are prohibited and gifts or purchases of such are forbidden. Drunkenness will promptly be punished. All houses of ill repute where troops debark or are stationed are declared out of bounds.

WINTER ON THE ITALIAN FRONT.

London, December 22.

Reuter's correspondent at the Italian Headquarters sends a thrilling description of the intense winter conditions the Italians are undergoing in the long outdrawn duel against the ever rising flood of the enemy. The Austro-Germans have accumulated a tremendous number of cannon on the mountains dominating the field of attack surrounding Grappa mountain and the valleys leading to the plain. It has been necessary to dynamite artillery trenches in consequence of the hardness of the frozen ground. The gunners have often been obliged to place cannon without shelter, while the snowy background makes them an easy target. Field telegraphists and stretcher bearers face almost certain death in carrying out their duties. The infantry is obliged to lie down for hours on utterly exposed ground awaiting the moment of attack, while the snow in its melted form penetrates their bones. Notwithstanding the hardships the spirit of the troops, notably the Alpini, is undaunted.

In the Chamber the Minister of Munitions announced that the Italians to-day reconquered Monte Asolone.

STARVATION IN GERMANY.

Amsterdam, December 22.

"Vorwaerts" in a sharp attack on the Food Controller declares that while agricultural producers and rich townsmen are living in plenty and the middle-class maintains itself precariously, the masses are not only hungry but literally starving. It is of opinion that there might be an absolute catastrophe in Germany within a month and a collapse even more serious than that of Russia, and as result German defeat and the entire loss of the war.

MRS. ASQUITH'S "LOVE LETTERS."

Imaginary Messages as a Man Should Write.

What kind of love-letter does a woman like to receive—from a woman's standpoint? Mr. Lur-ence Housman has made us familiar with the sort of "English-woman" writes; but Mrs. Asquith has carried the art further. A few years after her marriage, she wrote a series of love-letters. "From You to Me": pure inventions, putting herself in the man's place and showing us all, now that the days of sonnets and eyebrows are gone, how messages, free from sentimentality and yet breathing devotion, should be sent to the lady of our choice. Mrs. Asquith's letters—15 in number—are published in the November Pearson's, and they are fascinating reading. "This is not a love-letter," the first of these imaginary communications begins, "but let it be my excuse that you said I was to neglect you when I was with you but I could not pay you too much attention when I was away from you. I am staying with the man you say you want to know well. We spoke of you last night; he said you had more social courage than anyone he ever knew—this won't turn your head coming from him." "We spoke of beauty and women and types, etc. This got us to Burne-Jones. He said he (Burne-Jones) was a better talker even than painter; he would probably rank with the great talkers of our day. Mr. Birrell, J. A. Symonds, Raymond Asquith, George Meredith, Robert Louis Stevenson, and John Morley. He said Burne-Jones was not inspired by Nature, but by Art." The imaginary lover has something to say about the imaginary

lady's reference to a diplomatist. "I will tell you what I think of diplomacy, as I know it—I must add that my knowledge is not at all up-to-date—it is like photography, it generally erases every trace of the individual." (Mrs. Asquith has grounds of complaint against the snap-shottist, if anyone has.) "For God's sake, if you don't marry me, don't marry a diplomatist—a man tamed to the house—a sort of creature that no man fears as a rival and no woman as a lover." "Women are naturally cleverer than men, but they have no way of working it off," is a passage in another letter. "We govern districts, build bridges, steer ships, command troops, stir audiences, and hang men—all this take the edge off our intellectual achievements. You see, you are anxious to be liked and to be praised. We like liking and praising, partly because it is more within one's control. One can select one's victims, but not one's patrons." "I would prefer to be the chosen people. Fancy if I waited for you to love me! The very thought breathes blasphemy. Good night, dearest." There are many epigrams. "So you are not coming to London for a month. No sane man can be jealous of the spring! You would say it is equally silly to be jealous of the electric light, but so it is! I prefer you in the country." "There is a very striking reference to one of the great topics of the day. 'I am not happy with spiritual mediums. I neither like middle men nor middle women. I would rather worship God for love in the light than for money in the dark, and I hope and pray that when I am dead I shall not be allowed to get through and see again all the sorrow I have seen here'."

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Service to the "Telegraph.")

YESTERDAY'S TELEGRAMS.

THE ITALIAN FRONT.

London, Dec. 21.

Reuter's correspondent at French Headquarters in Italy, telegraphing on December 20, says: The situation is still anxious, but further snow-storms may any day stabilise the front for the winter. The enemy's recent gains were dearly bought by the Jaegers. The capture of Monte Solone on December 18 may enable the enemy to embarrass our communications in the plain, notably to wards Bassano, where two railways meet. It also threatens Monte Grappa being turned from the west.

ITALIAN CHAMBER INCIDENT.

London, Dec. 21.

During the debate in the Chamber on the case of Cavallini, who is alleged to have been the intermediary between M. Caillaux and the Germans, the Deputy Pirelli described Caillaux as "The Gioletti of France." Upbraided and subsequently Gioletti declared he could not accept Pirelli's comparison, because he had never supported and never would support a separate peace or any action not absolutely loyal to the Allies. He appealed for parliamentary unity when the enemy was in Italy. (Loud cheers.)

RUMOURED GERMAN PEACE OFFER.

London, Dec. 21.

In connection with the rumours of a forthcoming German peace offer, French newspapers suggest that Germany will endeavour, under the threat of a great offensive in the West, to create an atmosphere favourable to the acceptance of terms whereby something like a status quo ante will be restored in the West in return for the restoration of German colonies and a free hand for the Central Powers and Bulgaria in the East. According to the French view, Germany would keep the question of Turkey in the background, hoping thereby to interest England in this proposal.

A TURKISH REVERSE.

London, Dec. 21.

The War Office announces that the Arabs, under King Hedjar's son, destroyed a troop train southward of Tebuk, killing or capturing a whole Turkish detachment, with three hundred rifles, much ammunition and 24,000 pounds in Turkish gold.

IN THE WEST.

London, Dec. 21.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports: We repulsed a raid north-eastward of Messines and took a few prisoners in patrol encounters.

U. S. RAILWAY DISASTER.

Shepherdsville (Kentucky), Dec. 21.

Sixty-seven people were killed and fifty injured in a collision between the Louisville-Nashville passenger train and a local train last evening.

DON'T FORGET.

TO-DAY

Victoria Theatre—9.15 p.m.
Bijou Theatre—9.15 p.m.
New Hongkong Cinema—9.15 p.m.

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Victoria Theatre—9.15 p.m.
Bijou Theatre—9.15 p.m.
New Hongkong Cinema—9.15 p.m.

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GENERAL NEWS.

British Postal Orders in India.
The Postmaster-General recently
announced that the Govern-
ment of India have decided that
the value of British postal orders
paid in India to any one
individual on the same day must
not exceed \$20.

Queen in the Kitchen.
Queen Mary paid informal
visits recently to three Windsor
institutions—the Communal Kit-
chen, Infant Nursery and Girls'
National School. Having inspec-
ted the buildings, the Queen read
the day's menu, and afterwards
helped to serve dinners to all
comers, her assistants including
Princesses Mary and Prince Henry.
The dishes handled by the
Royal visitors included shepherd's
pie, steak pudding, soup, sausage
rolls, pork pie, rice pudding,
and apple pudding.

A German War Loan.
The latest announcement re-
garding the new German War
Loan issued to the German Press
reads as follows:—"You need no
money to subscribe to the War
Loan, for the easy terms allow
you ample time. You can reckon
what amount of money you will
earn in the following weeks and
months. Deduct from that the
cost of living; and then you will
see what you can lead to the
Fatherland. Therefore sub-
scribe." This remarkable ex-
hortation is printed right across
a full page in all the leading
papers.

A Queen's Will in Dispute.
Mr. W. E. Armstrong of Messrs.
Logan and Ross, Penang, was in
Ipoh (says a recent issue of the
Times of Malaya) in connection
with the civil suit arising over
the will of the late Queen of Raf-
man, in which the sum of
\$5,000,000 is said to be involved.
The matter was mentioned in
chambers later. We understand
that Mr. E. Berkeley, District
Officer, Upper Perak, will be ap-
pointed to arbitrate, as it appears
that the parties are endeavouring
to come to a settlement. (T.O.M.)

A Scandal.
Hans Interbeck, a civilian
camped in the tobacco rationations
on a scale which appears
stupendous in these days of scar-
city and high prices, says the
Daily Mail. Each Hun is allowed
to purchase weekly 2 lb. of pipe
or chewing tobacco, or 200
cigarettes or 100 cigars. Even a
hardened German smoker, with
his pipe perpetually between his
teeth, would find it difficult to
consume nearly 5 cts of tobacco,
or 15 cigars a day, and yet there
are—Huns—who purchase their
entire allowance. They find it
as useful as currency in and
about the camp.

Common Sergeant Resigns.
Sir Frederick Bosquell
recently announced his intention
to resign his position as Common
Sergeant, after 17 years' service,
but the City Corporation decided
to ask him to continue his duties
until the end of the war. A sound
lawyer, he has discharged his
duties with exemplary care, and
it has been suggested that he
takes his duties almost too
seriously. "I think you are the
most serious man at the Bar," the
late Sir Frank Lockwood once
said to a friend. "Have you
carefully considered the claims of
Bosquell?" asked the friend.
Lockwood admitted that he had
not, and revised his judgment.

The Estranged Wife.
Among the applicants at North
London Police Court was a Royal
Marine, who complained that his
wife wished to force a separation
upon him, whereas he wished to
live with her when he was on
leave and after completing his
naval service. "Do you know the
law?" asked Mr. Hedderwick, the
magistrate. "Not much," said
the applicant. "A man cannot
compel his wife to live with him
if she does not wish it," Mr.
Hedderwick told him. "There
was a time some call it the good
old days—when a man might
take his wife by the hair, drag
her down, and dance with his
lob-naild boots on her head till
she had reduced her to submission.
But now, if a man wishes to
satisfy his wife only one method
is open to him—he must show his
fondness by consideration and
kindness. If that won't make her
a loving wife the case is hope-
less."

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TIMATES GIVEN ON REQUEST.

GENERAL NEWS.

U. S. Import Trade.
President Wilson recently issued a proclamation requiring the licensing of most of the chief imports by the War Trade Board, enabling the Government to control imports as they have controlled exports since the war, and giving the government another powerful weapon, which will be used to the fullest extent in the economic war against Germany.

Bad Teeth in the Army.
Lord Greville, presiding at a meeting of the Ivory Cross Fund, emphasised the importance of the movement, and said that from twenty-eight years' experience of the Army, he could speak of the great ravages caused amongst the rank and file by lack of dentistry. At a recent dental inspection of 2,000 men at Aldershot something like 75 per cent. were found to be in need of treatment.

"Something to Show" For The Navy.

The Executive Committee of the Navy League has passed the following resolution:—"That representation be made to the First Lord of the Admiralty that a medal be awarded to all naval men who were afloat in the earlier part of the war on the same principle on which it is about to be given to all officers, warrant officers, N.C.O.'s, and men who belonged to units of the Expeditionary Force up to and including the first Battle of Ypres."

Death of an Admiral.
Rear-Admiral Leicester Chantrey Keppel died suddenly at Worthing recently in his eighty-first year. The deceased served as a midshipman in H.M.S. Bellerophon in 1854, and in the same year was present at the bombardment of Sebastopol and bombardment of Fort Constantine at 600 yards. He was engaged in the suppression of the slave trade on the East Coast of Africa, served in the expedition up the Zambesi with Dr. Livingstone, and was in command of the gunboat Janus and Insolent at Ochofo 1867-69.

A Soldier's Grievance.
Much irritation has been expressed by soldiers arriving in London from the trenches at being compelled to bring with them their full trench kit. One soldier, in conversation, said:—"It is all very fine to tell us we can leave our kit and rifle at the Y.M.C.A., or the Union Jack Club, but we are responsible for the whole lot, and if anything is missed, we have to stand the racket. What we want is to be able to leave our stuff somewhere on the other side, where we can pick it up on our return."

Russian Soldiers' Gold Loot.
Among the passengers of a trans-Siberian train which arrived at Harbin recently were discovered two Russian soldiers on whose persons nineteen pieces of gold ingots bearing the marks of the Central Treasury and the eagle were found. The gold was part of the loot seized by the revolutionists from the Moscow Branch of the Central Treasury. On the same train some Chinese from the trans-Balkal District were found to carry a quantity of alluvial deposits concealed on them. The total value of the gold is said to reach 500,000 roubles.

The Kashima Maru's Adventures.
The N.Y.K. European liner Kashima Maru arrived at Nagasaki recently. Captain Terasawa is reported to have told the Osaka Mainichi's correspondent there that three days after the vessel's departure from Liverpool a watchman posted at the stern of the vessel discovered the periscope of an enemy submarine at a spot some 800 metres from the bow. The ship was promptly swung round to bring the gun at the stern into action. The gunner opened fire at a distance of 500 metres and the 16th shell hit the periscope and destroyed it. Meantime the enemy submarine discharged a torpedo which luckily missed the ship, passing at a distance of 60 metres astern. If the torpedo had been fired a second sooner the Kashima would have gone. In the afternoon of the same day, she was attacked by another submarine. Shots were exchanged. The Kashima put on full speed and escaped. Yet another submarine was encountered. She appeared to be waiting for the Kashima to come within range. Fortunately the Kashima managed to emerge from the dangerous zone unharmed.

NOTICES.



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OPHTHALMIC OPTICIAN
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DEATH AFTER BURIAL.

Remarkable Story of a Hypnotist.

An astonishing story of a young composer who was hypnotized and practically buried alive by a self-styled professor is disclosed in the latest West Indian news papers to reach London, says the Daily Express.

"Professor" Talbert Soden was recently arrested at Bridgetown, Island of Barbados, on a charge preferred by Lance-Corporal W. C. Wharton, of "unlawfully and feloniously killing and slaying" Randolph Soden, aged twenty, a compositor, in Queen's Park, Bridgetown, on September 19.

It appears that the professor, who is a native of Trinidad, and has for some years been touring the West Indies, giving displays as a hypnotist and illusionist, announced, with the usual fanfare, that he would hypnotize and bury a woman in a grave five feet deep in Queen's Park, bringing her back to life after an interval of three days.

Soden, according to the evidence at the inquest, mounted and sat on a canvas covered table when the burial moment arrived, removed a portion of his clothing and donned a sleeping-suit handed to him by the professor, who, in turn, attired himself in a red flowered ceremonial robe. The professor then proceeded to make the familiar "passes" with his hands over Soden's face and forehead, the young man's eyes slowly closing and his body gradually becoming rigid under the treatment.

The next day was Sunday, and as the authorities refused to permit the professor to charge admission on that day, he decided to disinter Soden after seventeen hours' burial, when it was quickly seen that the youth's condition was hopeless.

Dr. T. G. Williams, senior resident physician at the General Hospital, and other doctors, testified at the inquest that the disinterred man was pulseless and roasting hot, his nails and lips were purple, a vein in his arm refused to bleed when opened, and particles of sand were lodged in his eye. Various drugs were vainly injected in an effort to save his life. He died two hours after entering the hospital without recovering consciousness.

Mr. H. W. Reece, K.C., the Solicitor General, appeared on behalf of the police at the inquest. Further evidence showed that the sliding glass covering on the lid at the head of the coffin could be left partially opened, the professor apparently relying on this camouflage to permit the patient to obtain air, but at the same time to deceive the spectators, to whom the arrangement was invisible.

The medical evidence, none-the-less, showed that Soden's death was due to asphyxiation caused by imperfect ventilation, although the jury brought in a verdict of "Death due to misadventure." Soden left the court amid loud cheers from a large crowd.

Carelessly enough, on October 26, 1906, the Daily Express reported from Kingston, Jamaica, the case of "Professor" W. A. Barclay, a coloured hypnotist, who hypnotized his white wife and kept her "buried" for 104 hours in a coffin equipped with two air shafts under eight feet of earth at Rockport Gardens, Kingston. Mrs. Barclay, however, was in perfect health when disinterred, although she had lost eight pounds in weight.

One Rupee Notes.
We have seen a one-rupee note which has found its way to Penang. It gives the words "one rupee" in eight languages. Another war product, observes the Peking Gazette.

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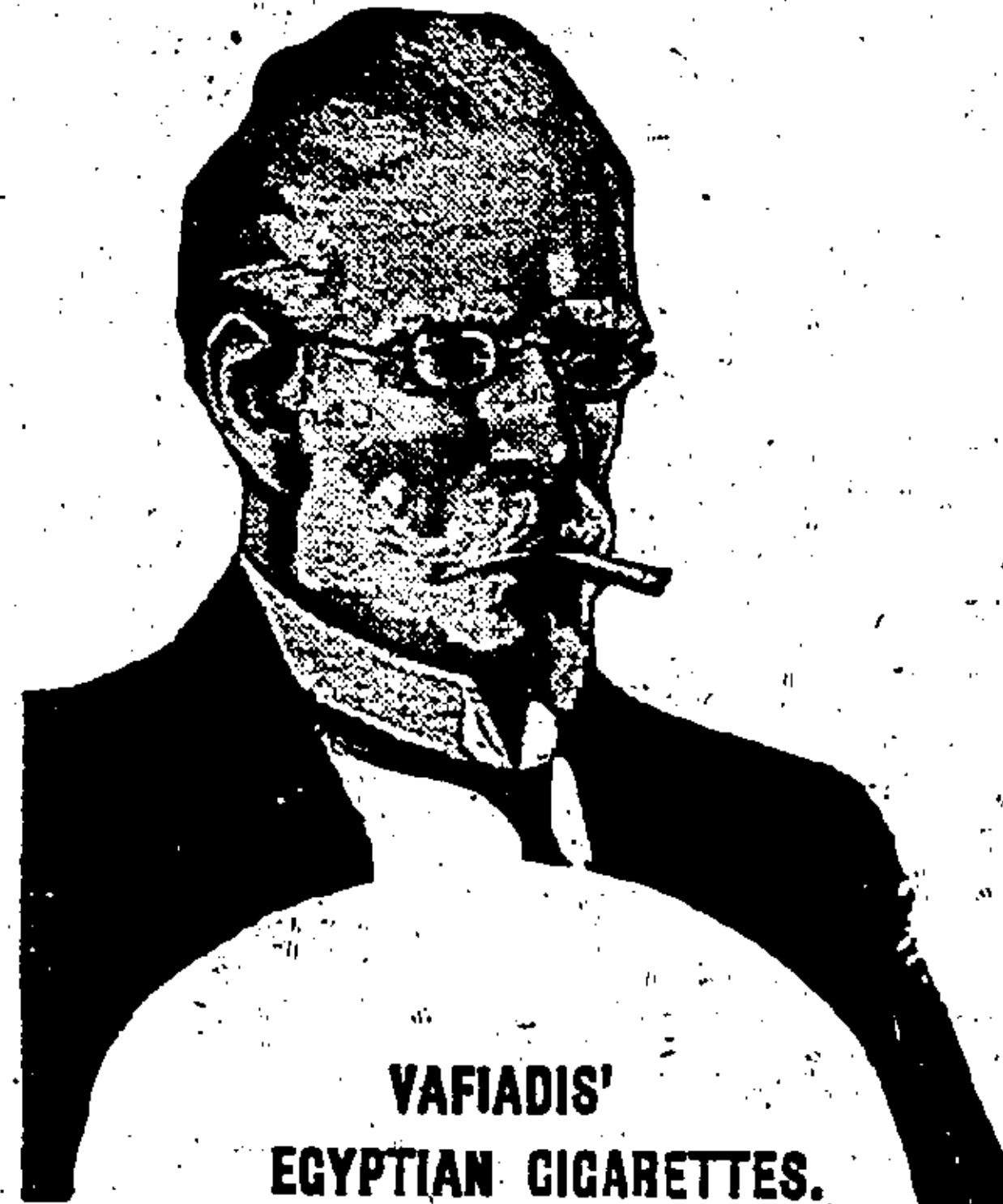
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Crown Prince " " 100	4.65
" " " 50	2.35
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Extra Fine (Grand Format) 50	2.35
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THURSDAY,

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Depth of Hold 8.45 feet
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as she now lies in the Harbour with all gear, appurtenances, anchors and chains, etc., etc.

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Hongkong, 18th December, 1917.

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CURE FOR ASTHMA

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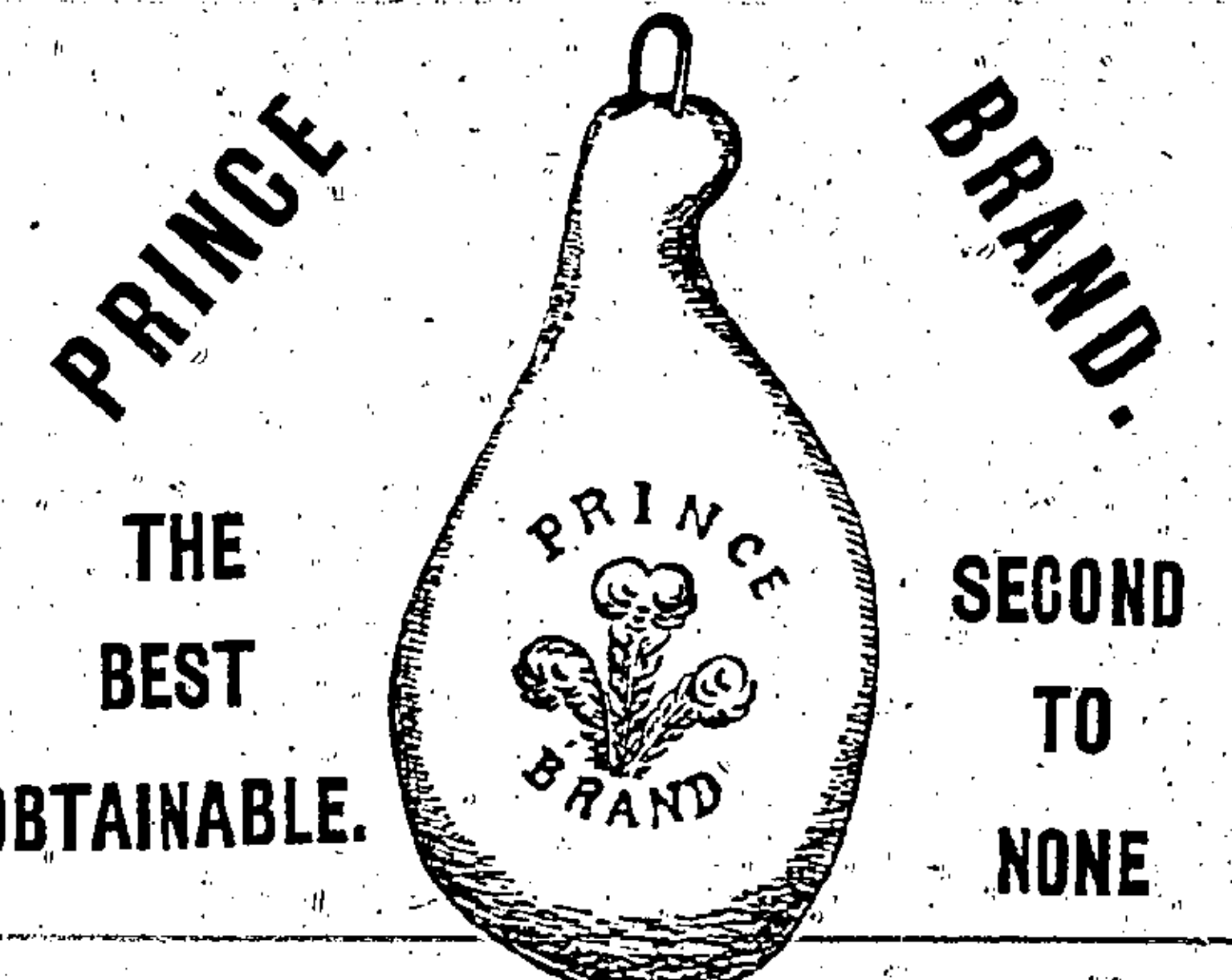
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Hongkong, 15th January, 1917

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2	" Port Full Bodied	1	" Whisky "E" Quality	
2	" Gin	1	" Dewar's Scotch Whisky	

Case No 2.—328.

1	Bot. St. Ma ceau Champagne	1	Bot. Superior Old Liqueur Cognac	
1	" Burund-Bearne	1	" Very Old Liqueur Scotch	
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1	" Port Superior Laid Invalid	1	" Gin	
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HONGKONG, MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1917.

The Christmas season is with us again, but, unhappily, it finds the world still convulsed by a mighty upheaval. Nation is set against nation, the clash of battle is still heard, and anything but a feeling of peace and goodwill prevails. Since last Christmas Day the war has grown in dimensions. Other countries have entered the lists, until to-day there are few Powers not actively engaged in warfare. Further demands continue to be made on the man-power of the participating nations, whose soldiers and sailors are called upon to undergo the trying experiences of another winter campaign, and whose civilian population have to brace themselves to suffer greater privations still. We have, indeed, reached the most trying period of the war, and, so far from joy and happiness being the predominant feelings among mankind, war-weariness, pain and suffering sit heavily on the peoples of the earth.

Christmas is the season of the year, when the milk of human kindness is wont to flow freely—when we all find joy in relieving the sufferings of our fellowmen, and when those who are blessed with an abundance of this world's goods are happy to help others not so fortunately placed. These are privileges and duties which it is right to practice collectively as well as individually. We as Brititcheers are now to be called upon to sacrifice some of our own resources in order to supply those of our Allies whose needs are more acute. This will mean, as Mr. Lloyd George has pointed out, greater privations for our people, but, with him, we know that every Briton will bear the added discomfort with greater heart and spirit in the thought that it is due to sharing with our brave Allies. In that way can we show the true Christmas feeling. Individually we can each and every one of us, by kindly thought and practical sympathy for those on whom the war has laid a heavy hand, endeavour to shed abroad a little joy and comfort. We know that even in this distant corner of the Empire there are those to whom the Yuletide season comes with a grief unknown twelve months ago, but, none the less, to these and all others we would once again pass on the old-time greeting that, so far as they are able to realise it, they may one and all enjoy

A BRIGHT AND MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Mr. Lloyd George's admirable survey of the war situation is particularly opportune, as unquestionably there has been of late a little anxiety in the public mind as to how matters really stand with ourselves and our Allies in the great struggle. The Premier's speech should help to dispel any serious doubts that may have been forming, for it is characteristically straightforward and manifestly an authentic exposition of the situation as it at present exists. Mr. Lloyd George realises that our hopes have not been realised so far, and he does not hesitate to say so. He attributes the present disappointing state of affairs entirely to the Russian collapse, and no doubt he does so with justice, for unquestionably had the Russians played the part that was legitimately expected of them a much different aspect would now have been found to exist in regard to the war situation. It was upon sound conclusions that the hope was based that the close of 1917 would see an unmistakably triumphant issue for the Allies over our tenuous foes. It is now so many months since Russia's wonderful recovery in Galicia caused everyone to feel that such valuable support, even though it might not eventually do more than hold up several enemy army divisions with quantities of munitions, was of the utmost importance to the Anglo-French operations on the Western front, as also to the Italians in their struggle with the Austrians. Rightly, therefore, to Russia's collapse is to be attributed, as the Prime Minister states, the present situation, which there is no merit in recognising as being very different from what we had predicted

But, as Mr. Lloyd George clearly shows, there is not the slightest cause for any serious anxiety, even though our hopes to-day are not what we had anticipated. Though in the Western Front, both in France and in Italy, the enemy has, in consequence of his being able to concentrate his strength powerfully and unexpectedly, directly because of Russia's collapse, in the West, been able recently to strike heavy blows, there is no doubt but that the effect has not been so serious as it might have been, and as probably the enemy anticipated. Italy appears to be rapidly recovering and there is good ground for believing that our own setback at Cambrai will not materially affect our pre-eminence in the Western Front. As the Premier pointed out, we have, and will always have, a very large preponderance of reserves compared with the enemy, and, undoubtably, once we fully recover from the shaking effects of Russia's collapse and, much more important still, once the United States are in the war, as they certainly will soon be in it, a great change will be witnessed. The present situation is unquestionably disappointing when contrasted with what we all hoped to see, but still, as Mr. Lloyd George infers, the prospects are as bright and our ultimate success as certain as ever they were.

Inspector Angus of Shekuiwan, told Mr. J. R. Wood, at the Police Court this morning, a story of a highway robbery which was committed some time ago. He said that the complainant, a contractor, was walking from Tiatan Tuk to Sai Wan when he was attacked from behind by two men. A struggle ensued and they all rolled down the hillside. The complainant then drew a revolver and shot one of the men, but the other took the weapon from him and both assailants managed to get away. After reporting the matter to the Police the complainant went back to the spot and a search resulted in the finding of the man who was shot. He had to be sent to the Government Civil Hospital. The other men, who had the revolver, had not been arrested. His Worship adjourned the case until Saturday next.

IF THOU WOULDST SPEAK A
WORD OF LOVING-CHEER, SPEAK
IT NOW. THIS MOMENT IS THINE
OWN.—Ralph Waldo Trice.

No Issue.
To-morrow being Christmas Day, there will be no issue of the "Hongkong Telegraph."

To-morrow is the third anniversary of the British raid by aeroplanes, submarines and cruisers on enemy warships off Cuxhaven.

The Dollar.
The opening rate of the dollar on demand to-day was 3: 1/8d. The closing rate will be found on Page 1.

"Damon and Pythias."
There will be only one screening to-day of the spectacular sensation, "Damon and Pythias." This will be at Victoria Theatre this afternoon.

Christmas Service.
We are asked to state that there will be a service at the Union Church morrow, commencing at 11 o'clock. The Rev. J. Kirk Macdonachie will give an address.

Died in Shanghai.
The local office of the Robert Dollar Co. has received word of the death of Mrs. A. Melville Dollar at Shanghai on Friday. Mrs. Dollar, who was the wife of Capt. Robert Dollar's son, was visiting Shanghai with her husband and her loss will be deeply felt by all of Capt. Dollar's friends in China and throughout the Orient.

Changed His Story.
A boatman was arrested on Saturday when coming from a steamer in the harbour with a quantity of rice in his possession. When first questioned about it, he said that he was taking it to a shop for someone on board, but later admitted that he had stolen it and that it belonged to the provisions of the crew. Mr. J. R. Wood, who heard the case at the Police Court this morning, fined the man \$10, or seven days' hard labour.

Pickpocket Sentenced.
While a Chinese was attending a cheap sale at a shop near to Sincere's, he felt a tug at his pocket and discovered that the hand of the man standing behind him was inside. A hole had been cut in the outside of the pocket by a sharp instrument and some small money taken. He had the pick-pocket arrested, and the man was charged before Mr. J. R. Wood, at the Magistrate's morning. It was proved that he had three previous convictions and his Worship sentenced him to six months' hard labour and four hours' stocks.

A Tall Story.
A coolie was delivering mineral waters to the house of Sergeant A. Smith, R.G.A., "on Saturday" when Mrs. Smith requested her husband to pick up the \$15 she had left on a shelf in the scullery, but only \$5 was found there, and the \$10 note being missing. The coolie volunteered to be searched, and when Mrs. Smith noticed a corner of the note sticking out of the man's hat, He was arrested and when charged before Mr. J. R. Wood, at the Police Court this morning, made the defence that the wind blew the note off the shelf and he only picked it up to hand it back. His Worship did not believe this and sentenced him to three months' hard labour.

Attempted Bribery.
A Chinese, arrested for stealing some growing flowers in Caisne road, on Saturday, claimed the constable a watch and chain as a bribe to let him go. When the man, who is employed in Queen's gardens as a servant, was charged before Mr. J.R. Wood, at the Police Court this morning, Inspector Kent said that a lot of damage had been done by flower pickers. Defendant's employer said that the "boy" had been employed by him for over two years and had always been honest. He was really a very good "boy." His Worship imposed a fine of £5 for the theft of flowers and bound the man over in connection with bribery charge.

Introduction of New Zealand Article Discouraged.

The possible shortage of hinder twine for harvesting purposes led to search for substitutes. One of the suggested sources for such twine was the New Zealand flax (*Phormium tenax*). This plant has been introduced and is being grown to a limited extent in California. The International Harvester Company, desiring to have an early and quick test made of its usefulness as a source of twine, had arranged for the importation of a large quantity of rootstocks of this plant from New Zealand.

The fact of this proposed importation was brought to the attention of the Federal Horticultural Board, and the record of this plant as to insect enemies and diseases in New Zealand was looked up; says a bulletin of the United States Department of Agriculture. It developed that a considerable number of insect pests attack this plant in New Zealand, sometimes with disastrous results, and that several of these pests are of such a kind that they can be expected to extend their predation to other cultivated crops in this country. The same is true of certain diseases of the New Zealand flax. Furthermore, rootstocks of this nature cannot be freed from the infesting insects and diseases by any practicable fumigation or disinfection.

As a result of these findings, the International Harvester Company was advised very strongly by the Federal Horticultural Board to destroy this shipment, which was already en route, or return it to its country of origin. As a considerable financial loss and the foregoing of the opportunity for an immediate experiment, the International Harvester Company accepted the suggestion of this board, and the imported flux was taken away from the port of San Francisco on July 28, 1917, under the direction of Frederick Maslow, Chief Deputy Quarantine Officer at that port, and dumped into the Pacific Ocean.

The securing of New Zealand to test its commercial possibilities can probably be safely accomplished, although at a necessary delay, by the importation of seed, and the considerable risk of adding important, new insect pests and plant diseases to the existing stock in this country can be thus avoided. The bringing in of any rooted plant involves danger which should not be accepted when the insect or disease infestation is uncertain or unknown.

Estimates of Number of Men
Available for U.S. National
Army.

Washington, November 14.—Best available estimates indicate that the first of the five classes into which all draft registrants are to be divided will contain more than 2,000,000 men, subject for duty with the colours before any men in any other class will be called up.

It is regarded as practically certain that Congress will take up the question of extending the Draft law to cover men who have attained the age of twenty-one since it was enacted. Should that be done and provision made for the registration thereafter of every man as he reached that age, it is probable that perhaps 800,000 would be added to class No. 1 automatically by next March. In that event, no present plans for the army would reach the men in class 2.

Officials have already considered the possibility that Congress will decide to take in these ad-hoc young men. Some fair system by which they may be registered, classified, and assigned to places will be devised.

New regulations governing passports for registered men become effective November 20. After that date the nearest local board may issue passport permits without reference to district boards, as is now required. Passports are not necessary to enter Canada.

Indications of Widespread Apathy.

A remarkable admission of Austrian lukewarmness for the Frankfurter cause is made in the *Frankfurter Zeitung* by its Vienna correspondent, who is distinctly annoyed by the apathetic attitude of the Austrians, in general and of the inhabitants of Vienna in particular. As a straw which shows how the wind is blowing in the Central Empire, this letter makes significant reading for us and our Allies. The *Frankfurter* correspondent writes:—

"People no longer speak of the war, or, at most, they ask: 'When do you think it will be over?' There is no further interest in the details. The question: whether Cadsorna will try his luck for the twelfth time on the Isengr is a matter of some interest only to those who have relatives in that hell. The others hardly read the reports any more. There are in part sympathy and fatalism and in part confidence. What has failed eleven times will not succeed the twelfth time, and Trieste will doubtless remain Austrian whatever attempts may be made on the other side."

The writer then makes the important admission that effective support from Austria is now out of the question :—

"For Austria the war is finished. There can be no further advance in the military results, and no every drop of blood that still flows is a pity. People are becoming angry because the other side will not see it. And people are annoyed at the privations which have quite unnecessarily to be borne. Vienna is becoming bad tempered. For three years Vienna has shown a courage and good behavior which could be expected of this city of pleasure only by those who knew from history how bravely Vienna stood the Turkish siege. To bear the inevitable with indifference and if possible with a joke on the lips is the good Vienna fashion. But the Viennese will not put up with what is not necessary. Although the Viennese put the chief blame for their sufferings upon the stubborn enemy who will not let go, yet ignorance, intolerance, and 'parochial' spirit bear their fair share of responsibility for the bitterness of these 'great times.'"

The writer has some hard words for the selfish Hungarians and for the press in both Austria and Hungary. Incidentally he reveals German design to bring the entire food-supply of the Central Empires under the control of a food commander-in-chief," a commutation—devoutly to be wished on the part of Prussia, who would doubtless see that she obtained a lion's share. Of Hungary he writes:—

"Hungary, no doubt, gives her food for the joint defence, but in all food matters her charity begins at home, and we have not been able to establish a joint commander-in-Chief for the feeding of the allied Empires. "When travelers tell of the milk and honey of Hungary the Viennese feels his golden Vienna start turn at the sight of the long line before every fat coal, or soap store, or if he sees himself in the press, he gives still more drastic expression to his feelings.

"An infamous press, which lives on stirring up jealousies and is tolerated from above only because they divert the bitterness from better protected persons and institutions to the more defenceless masses, complete the poisoning of public opinion. In short, it is not exactly a pleasant time despite the brilliant blue sky and an unusually good wine year."

Japanese Sympathy with the Allies.
London, November 29.—The London newspapers publish prominently a letter from Surgeon Colonel Kitano Goto on behalf of the disabled Japanese soldiers in China, expressing heartfelt sympathy for the patriotic heroes of the beleaguered European Allies who have fought bravely in the cause of humanity, and for love of Fatherland against Teutonic barbarism. A suitable reply has been sent to Colonel Goto through the British Ambassador in Tokyo.

John Ashton, the antiquary, says that the practice of selling tea mixed with sloe-leaves was at first penalised by the authorities solely because of the loss of revenue it entailed. Prior to the passing of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875, bread, spices, and strong liquors seem to have been the only articles of consumption whose purity was adequately protected by law. Ashton describes a prosecution instituted in 1833 by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue against a wholesale tea merchant. This originated through a boy declaring, when arrested for gambling, that the money found on him was made by picking "tea leaves" in Camberwell. Further inquiries elicited the fact that a large number of persons frequented the fields of Camberwell and Dulwich for the purpose of picking sloe leaves, blackthorn leaves, and white-thorn leaves. A local dairy farmer paid them 1d. per pound for sloe or blackthorn leaves, and 3d. per pound for white-thorn leaves. One man said he picked from 50lb. to 60lb. every day at the right season, and always found a market with the farmer. These eventually helped to swell the stores of China tea in a City warehouse.

Mr. Gerard, is the first to tell us the real truth, says a correspondent to a Home paper. We had heard a lot about how baseball was the national game of America. We know now on the authority of Mr. Gerard, that poker is the national game of the United States. The "fascinating" but uncertain game of draw poker" was introduced into Great Britain by General Solesnek, who was United States Minister to the Court of St. James's during President Grant's second term. It was probably played on the Continent quite as early. French novels have alluded to the game for thirty years. Indeed one novel is called "Chair et Poker." But because it is much more used as padding for the French romances poker is. For all that, the term "Kitty" would seem to be of French origin, *quite* being twisted into "Kete" and then into "Kitty." Even bishops use poker metaphors when they tell how young fellows have been "made good" after an early profligate career.

Scotland has done better than England in reducing convictions for drunkenness. While the latter has effected a reduction in the weekly average from 1,544 to 929, the former has out its average from 1,435 to 593. London shows up well, with 1,008 convictions weekly, before the new orders, and 295 weekly for the nine months since. Liverpool has done a trifle better, her figures being 207 and 67. Birmingham, which was in good condition already, has cut her 37 a week to 17; Manchester, 83 to 21; Hull, 28 to 6. In Scotland, Edinburgh has reduced her record of 120 a week by one-half, and Glasgow her 522 to 178. The population of Liverpool and Glasgow is not far apart, but one would not guess this from these figures for convictions for drunkenness. Nor would one, looking at the figures for Birmingham, and Edinburgh, suppose that the former city is 50 per cent. larger than the latter. If one did not know that London is immeasurably larger than any other city in the kingdom, would he infer that fact from London's 295 convictions weekly and Glasgow's 178?

The Sun Fein outrage in the office of the *Skidmore Eagle* is a sad piece of ingratitude in its way for the *Eagle* was born—in 1857—as an organ of rebellion. It was in one of its earliest issues that appeared the famous phrase, "The *Skidmore Eagle* has its eye on Russia." It was quoted by Palmerston (who was similarly named) in the House of Commons, and has since shared immortality with the three sailors Tooley-street. The vigilant Tribune, Mr. Frederick Potter, who has at once founder, proprietor, and editor, lived till 1906: never dreaming that his example of 1857 would be followed by all of us in 1917.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

INTRIGUE IN AMERICA.

Correspondence for Germany.

London, December 22.

Reuter's correspondent at New York says that an extensive traffic in correspondence to Germany and Austria, smuggled by crews of mainly Swedish ships, has been discovered. Arrests are imminent.

Heavy Sentences.

London, December 22.

The five defendants, who have been convicted at Detroit for conducting military conspiracies in the United States against Canada, have been sentenced to two years and four years' imprisonment in addition to fines of from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

A Former German Consul Fined.

London, December 22.

Reuter's correspondent at San Francisco says that George Bodick, an ex-German consul at Honolulu has been fined \$10,000 for fomenting a revolution in India.

THE TCHECO-SLOVAK ARMY IN FRANCE.

London, December 22.

Reuter learns that the Tcheco-Slovak army in France consists of at least 120,000 men, who are chiefly Czech soldiers, who voluntarily surrendered to the Russians and Serbians.

THE FOOD SUPPLY QUESTION.

London, December 22.

By order of the Food Controller, the Food Officers in the various boroughs yesterday made an inventory of the margarine stocks in the multiple shops and had the surpluses distributed to small shopkeepers. Thus the queues in many instances disappeared. The Food Controller has now ordered the extension of the local Committees' powers to all essential articles.

Lord Rhonda has proposed to shipowners of every ship going to England to utilise every inch of space for storing food for Britain.

THE LATEST AIR RAID.

London, December 23.

The Press Bureau announces that last night's air raid was not attended by any casualties, neither was any damage done.

THE FIRE AT KRUPPS.

London, December 23.

According to a message from Amsterdam the *Telegraf* says that the fire at Krupps was due to a short circuit in the Power Station, which was seriously damaged.

FRENCH POLITICAL INDICTMENTS.

London, December 23.

Reuter's correspondent at Paris says that the Chamber was crowded when the report of the Committee indicting M. M. Caillaux and Loustalot was read. Both men most indignantly protested against the charges, M. Caillaux maintaining that he had always served France and had never attempted to make overtures with the enemy. The Chamber voted the withdrawal of Parliamentary immunity unanimously against M. Loustalot and by 41 votes to two against M. Caillaux.

THE WESTERN FRONT.

London, December 23.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—Under cover of a heavy barrage yesterday afternoon the enemy locally attacked near the Ypres-Staden railway and drove in our advanced posts for a short distance on a seven hundred yard front. There is hostile artillery firing at Gheluvelt and Poelcapelle.

A German wireless official message states:—An enterprise upon the Boesinghe-Staden railway resulted in our taking thirty English prisoners.

THE ITALIAN FRONT.

Strong Enemy Parties Repulsed.

London, December 23.

An Italian official message states:—There were local encounters on the whole mountain front. We repulsed heavy strong enemy parties at Posina, south of Asiago, in the Frenzela Valley and on the southern slopes of Sasso Rosso.

A German Message.

London, December 23.

A German wireless official message states:—An Italian thrust on the heights to the west of Monte Asolone failed.

FOOD FOR GERMANY FROM RUSSIA.

London, December 23.

Reuter's correspondent at Amsterdam says that the President of the Austrian Food Board states that Austro-Germany has been occupied with the question of transporting food stuffs from Russia, but, as the Danube is already freezing, large supplies cannot be expected by this route before March.

AUSTRALIA AGAINST CONSCRIPTION.

London, December 23.

Reuter's correspondent at Melbourne states that the totals of the referendum are 928,000 against and 764,000 for conscription.

THE NEAR EAST QUESTION.

London, December 22.

Speaking in the House of Commons, Mr. Lloyd George emphasized that what would happen to Mesopotamia must be left to the Peace Conference, but one thing which should never happen is the restoration of it to the Turks. He declared that the same observation applied to Armenia, a land which had suffered blood and massacre. The Peace Conference must settle its destiny but only on the principle of respecting the desires of the peoples themselves, whether Europeans or Arabs.

LOCAL WEDDING.

Cocke-Blake.

At St. Joseph's Church, Garden Road, this morning, the wedding was celebrated of Lieutenant Robert Cocke, Royal Garrison Artillery, Hongkong, second son of Mr. James Cocke, Plymouth, England, and Miss Mary Margaret Blake, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Blake, Hongkong.

The ceremony was witnessed by a large number of the friends of the bride and bridegroom, the military element being conspicuous.

The Revd. Father Augustine officiated.

Attending the bride, who looked extremely pretty in satin and Georgette, trimmed with lace, were little Kathleen Simmons and Gladys Johnson, two tiny little ladies dressed in white satin, trimmed with fur. The bride, who carried a bouquet of white roses, wore a diamond pendant, the gift of the bridegroom. The bridesmaids' brooches which were also gifts of the bridegroom.

Second Lieutenant Mann, R.G.A., was "best-man."

The bride entered the church accompanied by her father, who gave her away, while suitable music was played by the church organist.

The register having been signed, Mr. and Mrs. Cocke passed from the church door under an archway of the swords of Lieut. Cocke's brother officers of the Garrison.

Photographic groups were taken at the church, after which the bridal party and friends were received at the Wyndham Hotel by Mr. and Mrs. Blake.

Several toasts were proposed and heartily responded to, after which the happy couple left for Macao to spend the honeymoon, the bride being dressed in a fawn costume.

The bride received numerous presents.

WEATHER REPORT.

December 24d. 11h. 40m.—No returns from Indo-China, Japan and continental stations north of Shanghai. Slight increases of pressure have occurred at the majority of stations reporting; the anticyclone remains central over the Yangtze Valley.

Fresh to strong monsoon will prevail along the China Coast, and over the N. China Sea.

Hongkong Rainfall for the 24 hours ending at 10 a.m. to-day, 0.00 inch. Total since January 1st 81.48 inches against an average of 82.86 inches.

FORECAST FOR THE 24 HOURS ENDING AT NOON TO-MORROW.

District.	Forecast.
1 Hongkong to Gap Rock.	N. winds, fresh; fine.
2 Formosa Channel.	N. winds, strong.
3 South coast of China between H.K. and Lamook.	The same as No. 1.
4 South coast of China between H.K. and Hainan.	The same as No. 1.

C. W. JEFFRIES, Chief Assistant, Hongkong Observatory, Dec. 22, 1917.

METEOROLOGICAL.

	Previous	Day	On date	On date.
		at 9 a.m.	at 6 a.m.	at 3 p.m.
Barometer	30.14	30.25	30.12	
Temperature	59	47	53	
Humidity	52	63	49	
Wind Direction	N.N.W.	N.	W.	
Force	2	1	1	
Weather	B	b	B	
Rain	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Highest open air Temperature on the day				54th 47
Lowest				

H.K. Observatory, Dec. 24, 1917.

T. F. CLAXTON, Director.

Alice Memorial Hospital.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Affiliated Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the Funds of the Hospitals:—Sin Sen Che, \$109.92; W.M.S., \$5.

THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH

EXTRA

HONGKONG, MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1917.

REUTERS' TELEGRAMS.

RUSSIAN AFFAIRS.

German Prisoners form Army Corps.

London, December 23.

According to the *Times*' correspondent at Petrograd the evening newspapers say that the ex-German Military Attache and the ex-German Military Plenipotentiary to the Tsar is forming an army corps in Petrograd composed of German war prisoners with the consent of the Russian authorities.

The Disturbances at Odessa.

London, December 23.

The *Times*' correspondent at Odessa says that the disturbances at Odessa have subsided. Latterly they degenerated into the sacking of wine stores and other excesses. The trouble began by the shooting of a young Jew, who was chief of the Red Guards during the subsequent fighting. Eight wine stores were looted in one day, including twenty thousand bottles in one store. The Guards sent to restore order joined the looters. Finally both sides of the Soviet and Reds met and appointed a committee jointly to restore order.

The Murder of Officers.

London, December 22.

The *Morning Post* correspondent at Petrograd says that the decree of the Bolsheviks abolishing distinctions of rank in the army has caused an increase in the murder of officers, especially among the infantry. When the news of the decree reached the front the soldiery mobbed officers and killed them if they refused to strip off their epaulettes. Hence officers have largely donned mufti and disappeared. Many are returning to their homes in Ukraine, the Caucasus and in Siberia, but a great many Russian officers are practically prisoners among their men.

A Holy War Against Imperialism.

London, December 22.

Reuter's correspondent at Petrograd, telegraphing on December 22, says that M. Trotsky, speaking at a meeting in celebration of the armistice, said:—"We did not overthrow the Tsar and bourgeoisie in order to fall on our knees to beg the Kaiser for peace. If we are offered unacceptable conditions we ask the Constituent Assembly to decide. If the Assembly agrees then the Maximalist party will leave the Assembly. We invoke all to a holy war against imperialism in all countries. If owing to economic ruin, we are unable to fight for our ideals we tell our foreign comrades that the struggle is not ended but only postponed, as it was similarly in 1905."

After declaring that in the affair at Tobitsch, mentioned on December 3, the Maximalists had shown Sir George Buchanan their dignity in proving that they had not acted under the influence of the Anglo-American bourgeoisie, M. Trotsky continued:—"If diplomats interfere with our affairs they cease to be diplomats and become private adventurers on which the heavy hand of the Revolution will have no mercy."

For the Revolution.

London, December 23.

Reuter's correspondent at Petrograd says that a Maximalist news agency quotes M. Trotsky as saying "If the Kaiser were able to attack us and to propose peace terms onerous for the Revolution, we should create a powerful army to fight against the Kaiser."

Pacifying the Railwaymen.

London, December 23.

Reuter's correspondent at Petrograd says that the Commissioners have telegraphed to all the railwaymen that they will take the control of the railways in their own hands and abolish high railway posts, for instance managers and heads of departments.

The Commissioners have ordered the stoppage of defensive works on the Russian front, the dismissal of local workmen and the disbandment of the technical staffs.

The returns of the hospitals are still most incomplete, but there are already 250 casualties in the sacking of wine shops in Petrograd.

The Peace Conference.

London, December 23.

Reuter's correspondent at Amsterdam says that the peace conference between the Russian and German representatives have decided that a representative of each power should preside alternately. The chief Russian representative stated the well-known Russian peace programme, of which the representatives of the other powers then began an examination.

A Maximalist Suspicion.

London, December 23.

Reuter's correspondent at Petrograd says that, owing to the armistice in Rumania, Mr. Anderson, the head of the American Red Cross Mission in Rumania has telegraphed to his agent in Petrograd as follows:—"Send all automobiles possible to Rostoff." From here it is intended to ship them to Mesopotamia. This telegram, together with a telegram from the American Ambassador authorising Mr. Anderson to draw one hundred thousand roubles, came to the knowledge of the Maximalists and led to a bitter attack on America and Britain by M. Trotsky, owing to a Maximalist suspicion that the Americans are assisting M. Kaledin.

BOMBS DROPPED ON DUTCH TERRITORY.

London, December 23.

Reuter's correspondent at Amsterdam says that five bombs were thrown in the district of Goes, in the Province of Zeeland, on Saturday evening. Several houses were damaged, but there were no casualties.

GERMAN NEWSPAPER SUSPENDED.

London, December 23.

Reuter's correspondent at Amsterdam says that *Vorwaerts* has been suspended for three days, evidently owing to the article cabled on December 21.

STATE CONTROL OF COAL.

Government Bill in the Commons.

The Coal Control Bill came up recently for second reading in the Commons. This far-reaching measure enacts an agreement between the industry and the Coal Controller, according to which the prosperous mine pays not only 80 per cent. tax on excess profits, but an additional 15 per cent. contribution to the funds of the Coal Controller. This fund is to be used to make good deficiencies of profits on less prosperous mines, and Mr. Runciman holds that the levy is a charge on the subject, which requires a finance resolution. The Speaker ruled against him.

Sir Albert Stanley then proceeded with the Bill. Last December, said he, the Government took over the South Wales Mines, and in March control was extended to all coal mines in the United Kingdom. This met labour difficulties and effected economies in transport. Roughly speaking, 250,000,000 tons of coal was carried over the railways annually. Therefore, it was essential that the transport of coal should be under the control of the Coal Controller. As a result of the control there had been a very material saving in locomotives, railway waggons, and staff. As a result of this control, more coal had been distributed for use in London this year than was the case a year ago. We had larger stocks available than a year ago, and we could congratulate ourselves that this country, as compared with all the other belligerents, with the possible exception of the United States, was better supplied with coal for domestic purposes than any of the others. The Coal Controller had been able to prevent any real hardship, and as far as he could see, provided that reasonable economy were exercised, we should get through the next winter successfully. (Cheers).

So far as could be estimated, Sir Albert added, the sums received from the excess profits would be at least sufficient to compensate those whose profits had fallen. If the money received proved insufficient, it would be necessary for the Government to come to Parliament and ask that that should be made up either by a Vote of Credit or in some other way.

Sir S. Roberts, on behalf of the executive council of the Mining Association of Great Britain, one of the parties to the agreement, said it had been accepted by the vast majority of the persons interested.

Sir J. Walton moved the rejection of the Bill on behalf of large colliery interests concerned.

Mr. Finney, for Labour, accepted the principle of the Bill. The time had come when the coal mines should be under State control. The Labour members would support the second reading, but would move amendments in Committee and would reserve to themselves the right on the third reading to vote against the Bill if it were not amended in certain directions.

At eleven o'clock the debate was adjourned.

Imperial Japanese Portrait Stolen.

It is reported from Shingu (Kii province) that on the night of November 30 between 7 and 9 o'clock some one broke into the Tesho Elementary School in Kinomoto Cho, Miye Ken, and stole the Imperial portrait which has always been kept carefully in a special room. It may be stated that a similar incident occurred recently in an elementary school in Arii Mura, Minami Muro Gun, Miye Ken. The Police are making a resolute search for the culprit.

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BARON ISHII ON HIS MISSION.

A Glowing Tribute to America.

Tokyo, December 17.—This evening Baron Ishii was the guest of honor at a banquet at which 200 prominent Japanese and Americans were present, Baron Shibuewa presiding, and the guests being the Members of the Special Mission to the United States and the American Ambassador. Responding to the toast of the evening Baron Ishii said:—
"We had a wonderful trip and wonderful experiences. We sailed upon a voyage of discovery in search of treasure and found it. It affords me the keenest gratification to tell you that we bring back to all the people of Japan from the people of America a message charged with an earnest spirit of goodwill and a sincere desire for a good understanding and friendship. This answer to your message of goodwill was delivered to us by the whole people of America and by men whose names stand highest on the roll of American honour.
"Let there be no doubt among you as to the sincerity of this message. There was no false note in it and no discordant tone in the voices welcoming us. We are well aware that our personalities played no part and the treatment we received from the President and people of the United States was intended for our Emperor and our people.
"We are very earnest in our desire to convey the whole people of this country of the value and real meaning of the

reception this Mission received at the hands of the people of the United States.

Here let me refer to the notes exchanged between Japan and America for the consummation of this international agreement. I stand, personally, a debtor to President Wilson and Mr. Lansing, for the universal courtesies and consideration they accorded me. As the result of a frank exchange of opinion, we arrived at an agreement which must help America, China and Japan. The mutual declarations with regard to China ought not to be a subject for suspicion at any time; neither should they under any consideration give offence, because where no offence is intended no offence can be given. There is no suggestion of interfering in the policies or government of China in the recognition of the fact that Japan has special interests with China.
Our Chinese friends tell us that China and Japan are like two wheels of a carriage or as the lips to the teeth. It is difficult for me to understand, therefore, why this highly intelligent people now take umbrage because of this putting into writing of the special relations of Japan and China or of the special interests of Japan in China. I confidently believe that the time will soon come when our Chinese friends, in their quick discernment of the whole situation, will be satisfied to be assigned partners of this new agreement which so materially contributes to the strengthening of the good relations not only

between America and Japan but between Japan, America and China.

"With such a renewed conception of international amity and solidarity guaranteeing the unbroken tranquillity of eastern Asia the undivided energy of Japan and China should henceforth be directed towards strengthening the forces now struggling in the common cause.
"I am now happy to be able to state before you that there are no longer any questions regarding China between Japan and the United States.

"In a speech made before a magnificent assemblage at a dinner in the city of New York I said that for many years the common foe of Japan and America has been the worst enemy of China. German influence in China is responsible for unfortunate misunderstandings and widespread misinformation impairing the relations of the two countries. If the Chinese Government or people should now be misled by an ill-advised interpretation of this new instrument, it would be matter of sincere regret to me, as I am sure it would be to the eminently fair and board-minded statesman who stands at the head of diplomatic affairs in the United States.
Describing the chief events connected with the visit of the Mission, Baron Ishii paid a fine tribute to "the loyalty, patriotism, unity and magnificent self-sacrifice of the whole people of the United States, looking to effective participation in the war." He said that the country is united in support of the President. "Resources so vast! An spirit so abundant! No one can doubt the result when once this tremendously virile force gets to action."

In conclusion Baron Ishii paid a tribute to the frankness and fairness of the new American Ambassador. He described an incident during his visit to Philadelphia on the occasion of the annual meeting of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, at which one of the speakers inadvertently shook a small Japanese flag from the table to the floor. Mrs. Morris who was on the platform, rose, stepped forward and picked the

U.S. TROOPS BACK FROM TRENCHES.

Relief Accomplished Without
Germans Knowing.

With the American Army in France, Tuesday, November 13.—The third series of American battalions is now occupying the first line, and the second American detachments to enter the trenches have returned to their billets. The relief was accomplished on a brilliant starlight night without the knowledge of the Germans.

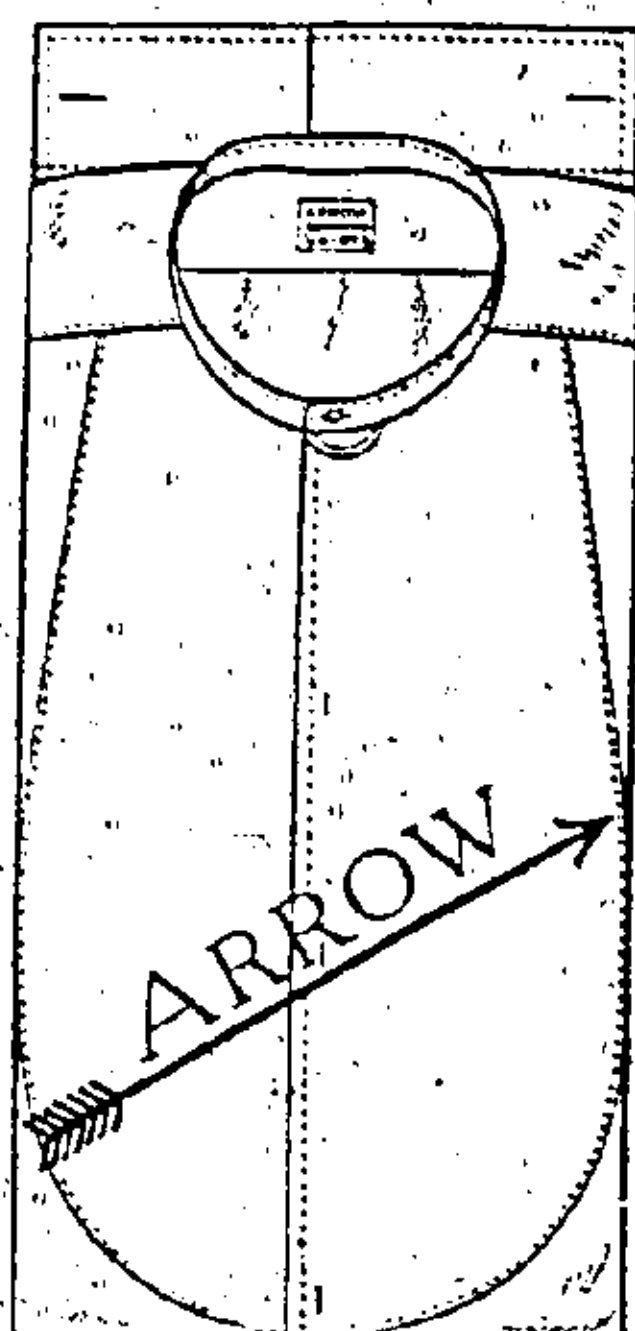
Included among the returning troops is the company which bore the brunt of the recent raid on the American trenches. At retreat this evening this company lined up in a little muddy street in a village nestling under a hill some miles from the front. Their clothes were caked with mud and the roofs and fences near by were hung with wet blankets and equipment. Openings here and there in the ranks showed how many men had been killed, wounded, and made prisoners in the trench fight. After the company was dismissed, an officer of the battalion watched them splash off through the mud, and said:

"There goes the scrappiest bunch of soldiers in France. They are mad all through and are just biding their time till they get a chance to repay the Germans for what happened to their comrades. They will get their revenge before this war is over. You can depend on that."
The second return battalions today were going through the same series of bathing and cleaning as the first detachment. The men are to enjoy several days' rest before taking up the training work again.

Flag up and replaced it upon the table beside an American flag. Baron Ishii continued:—"It was a natural and spontaneous courtesy on the part of one who is now the first lady of America in Japan. To me the incident illustrated the expression of the earnest wish among American men and women that our two flags shall entwine for ever with the flag representing right and honour."

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This Establishment will be open all day
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1 " Blackberry Brandy	Quart
1 " D.O.M.	Pint
1 " Brandy "Martell's XXX	Quart
2 " Whisky, King George IV or Perfection	
1 " Port, Superb Tawny	
2 " Claret, St. Julien	Quarts
1 " Sherry, Old Brown	
1 " Gin, Old Tom or Dry "D.C.L."	
1 " Burgundy, Burgoyne's	Quart
1 phial Pomeranzan Bitters	

No. 2 HAMPER.

1 bottle Champagne, "Victor Clicquot," Quart	
1 " D.O.M.	Pint
1 " Burgundy, Burgoyne's	Quart
1 " Brandy, Martell's XXX	
2 " Whisky, King George IV or Perfection	
2 " Port, Tawny Dry	
2 " Claret, St. Julien	Quart
1 " Gin Old Tom or Dry "D.C.L."	
1 " Sherry "Vino de Pasto"	
1 phial Pomeranzan Bitters	

No. 3 HAMPER.

1 bottle Burgundy, Burgoyne's	Quart
1 " Peppermint, Got Freres	Pint
1 " D.O.M.	
2 " Rich Old Port	
2 " Whisky, King George IV or Perfection	
1 " Brandy 20 year Old	Quart
1 " Sherry, Amontillado W.S.	
2 " Claret Medoc	
1 " Gin Old Tom or Dry "D.C.L."	
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General Agent, Passenger Department,
Hong Kong.J. H. WALLACE,
General Agent,
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THE JAPAN MAIL STEAMSHIP CO.

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Subject to Alteration

Destination.	Steamers.	Sailing Date
LONDON via Singapore, Malacca, Penang, Colombo, Delagoa Bay, Cape Town, Madeira...	Shinaba Maru Capt. Higo	(MON., 31st Dec., at noon.
VICTORIA, B.C., & SEATTLE via Shanghai, Moji, Kobe, Nagoya and Yokohama	Satsuta Maru Capt. Inadzu	(SUN., 13th Jan., at 11 a.m.
SHANGHAI, Kobe and Yokohama	Saki Maru Capt. Yoshikawa	(FRIDAY, 18th Jan., at 11 a.m.
SHANGHAI, Kobe and Yokohama	Jinsen Maru Capt. Saito	(FRIDAY, 4th Jan.
SHANGHAI, Kobe and Yokohama		
KOBE		

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SHINYO MARU	22,000	9th Feb.
PERSEA MARU	19,000	22nd Feb.
KOREA MARU	15,000	9th Mar.

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Subject to change without Notice.
Sailing from Hongkong to San Francisco:
S.S. Tjikembang 27th Dec. S.S. Tjikongari
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ALL STEAMERS FITTED WITH WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.
The steamers have accommodation for a limited number of saloon passengers and carry a fully qualified surgeon.
Cargo taken on through Bills of Lading to all Overland Points in the United States of America and Canada.
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SHIPPING

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SAILINGS SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

For.	Steamers.	To Sail.
SHANGHAI	Sungkiang	25th Dec. at d'light.
TSINGTAO, W'WEI & C'FOOHUICHOW		27th Dec. at 3 p.m.
SHANGHAI	Shantung	27th Dec. at 3 p.m.

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Telephone No. 36.
Hongkong December 24, 1917.**JAVA-CHINA-JAPAN LIJN.**Regular Fortnightly Service between
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Steamer	From	Expected on or about	Will leave on or about	To
Tjimanoeck	Amoy	30th Dec.	27th Dec.	Amoy & S'hai
Tjilatjap		5th Jan.	1st Jan.	
Tjikini		15th Jan.	10th Jan.	Kobe
			20th Jan.	Shanghai

The steamers are all fitted throughout with electric light and have accommodation for a limited number of saloon-passengers. All steamers carry a duly qualified surgeon. Cargo taken at through rates to all ports in Netherlands-India and Australia.

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HONGKONG & SOUTH CHINA COAST PORT SERVICE.

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Steamships. Captain Leaving.
Haitan ... [A. E. Hodgkins] TUES. 1st Jan., at noon.

FOR SWATOW.

Arrivals and Departures from the Company's Wharf (near Blake Pier).

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Douglas Lapraik & Co.,
General Managers.**INDO-CHINA STEAM
NAVIGATION CO., LTD.**

(Projected Sailings from Hongkong.—Subject to Alteration)

For	Steamship	On
SANDAKAN	Mausang	Mon., 24th Dec. at noon.
HAIPHONG	Falsang	Fri., 28th Dec. at 7 a.m.
MANILA	Loongsang	Fri., 23rd Dec. at 3 p.m.
SHANGHAI	Koonshing	Sat., 29th Dec. at d'light.
MANILA	Yuensang	Fri., 4th Jan. at 3 p.m.

CALCUTTA LINE—Three sailings per month from Hongkong to Calcutta calling at Singapore and Penang.

Returning from Calcutta steamers proceed to Kobe and Moji, frequently calling at Shanghai.

These steamers have excellent passenger accommodation, are fitted with Electric Light and carry a fully qualified surgeon. This line is temporarily discontinued owing to the war, Particulars on application.

SHANGHAI LINE—Sailings approximately every five days between Canton and Shanghai, sometimes calling at Swatow. Steamers on this line have a limited amount of passenger accommodation, and through tickets can be obtained for Northern and Yangtze Ports via Shanghai. Through Bills of Lading are issued to all Northern and Yangtze Ports.

MANILA LINE—A weekly service is maintained with Manila by vessels with good passenger accommodation, sailings from both ports every Friday.

HAIPHONG LINE—Sailings approximately weekly for passengers and cargo, calling at Hanoi when inducement offers.

BORNEO LINE—One sailing per month between Hongkong and Sandakan by a steamer having 2714 tons displacement for passengers.

Cargo taken on through Bills of Lading for Kedat, Jesselton, Labuan, Tawau and Lahad Dato.

TIENSIN LINE—A regular service is run from March to October between Hongkong and Tientsin calling at Weihaiwei and Chiaofoo.

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All European Passengers, leaving the Colony for Straits Settlement, are required to produce on arrival at destination passports with their Photographs and description affixed thereto.

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SHIPPING NEWS.

American Cotton.—The official report of the American Census Bureau dated November 14 gives the result of ginning cotton up to that date to be 8,539,000 bales, a decrease of 1,061,000 bales from the same time last year.

Poorer U-Boats.—I understand (writes "London" in the "Evening Standard") recent impressions gained from naval officers who have been in touch with enemy submarines shows there is a falling off in the quality of the craft Germans are turning out. They are bigger very often than the earlier types, but not so seaworthy either under or over the surface. Also the crews do not seem to be so well trained. Of the crew of one submarine picked up no fewer than seven were boys the eldest of whom was but 15 years of age.

Shipping and Engineering.—The issue of "Shipping & Engineering" to hand contains several interesting articles, beginning with an editorial on China Coast storm signals, which refers to the excellence of the latest issue of the "China Coast Storm Signals," but at the same time regrets that there are still two items that differ with those issued by the Hongkong Observatory. This is followed by articles on the seamen's standard wage, Nippon Yusen Kaisha, rust prevention in ferro concrete, the title of captain, charge against a chief officer, etc., while shipping and engineering notes supply an abundance of information on matters of interest.

Chepstow Naval Dry Dock Scheme.

Reference has previously been made to developments in the Chepstow area, and it is now reported that this new dry dock to be constructed at the confluence of the Wyre and the Severn at Beachley, near Chepstow, will be on a very large scale, and has been decided upon by the Admiralty. The dock will be used exclusively by the Admiralty during the war and as long afterwards as circumstances require but it will probably be taken over late by the Standard Shipbuilding Company, of Chepstow. To assist in carrying out the building of the new naval dry dock it is likely that a temporary bridge will be thrown across the Wyre. "Journal of Commerce."

Steamer Outrages, A Submarine.

A thrilling escape from a Teuton submarine was told recently by the captain of a British steamer arriving at a U.S. port from France. For several hours the liner was pursued, but she managed to escape without being attacked. The steamer, carrying a crew of about 60 men, left a French port in ballast trim. At 2.50 a.m. when about 40 miles from the port of departure, a German submarine was sighted about a mile and a half away. Evidently those on the submarine sighted the steamer at the same moment, for they immediately swung her bow around and the captain in pursuit. The captain of the steamer manoeuvred so as to bring the stern of his vessel to the submarine and then began a race which continued until daylight. The commander of the submarine tried to overtake the steamer, but could not gain on her. Meanwhile the stokers on the steamer were feeding the furnaces and the steamer was running under forced draught. The men on the steamer had the stern gun trained on the submarine all the time, but they did not want to begin the attack. The sea was choppy at the time, and the captain of the steamer changed his course slightly so as to bring the submarine in better view. This brought the undersea boat head to the sea and apparently interfered with her progress. The chase continued until daylight, and just as the sun's rim showed above the horizon the German gave up the chase and submerged. The captain said it was a beautiful moonlight night and the submarine could be seen very distinctly. She was one of the large type of undersea boats, with two guns mounted on deck. It was evident that her commander was trying to get the boat in position to launch a torpedo at the steamer, but in this he was not successful. Every preparation was made on board the steamer to abandon her if necessary. The boats were swung out and provisioned, and the crew was ready to leave at a moment's notice. When asked why his gunners did not fire at the German, the captain said that his vessel was armed for defensive purposes, and if he fired first and was afterwards beaten, it would make a decided difference in the final settlement of the case.

LOCAL SPORT.

FOOTBALL.

LEAGUE-DIV. I.

Hongkong Club v. Middlesex.

The following teams turned out for their respective sides:

Club: Goldenberg, Cane, McCabbin, Riechelman, Stewart, Bodger, McTavish, Chassel, Gerard, Irvine, Sialker.

Middlesex: Turner, Fisher, Fawthrop, Kasse, Fawcett, Turner, Soroxton, Jarvis, Sayers, Reed, Walden.

Referee: Mr. Tucker.

The soldiers were off in fine style, and did most of the pressing. Gradually the Club got into their stride, and Stalker put over the bar. Play continued to be even. The Club forced a corner, and from the resultant kick, Stalker rushed the ball through. The soldiers tried hard to draw level, and their efforts were soon rewarded. Walden went away on the left and from a bad clearance by the Club backs, Sayers sent in a first time drive, which gave Goldenberg no earthly chance. Just before half-time an unfortunate accident occurred to Soroxton. He unfortunately stood on the ball, which brought him down heavily on his head and he had to be taken off the field. Half-time: 1-1.

The Middlesex opened well in the second half, play being fast and good. McTavish and Gerard were playing well for the Club, Turner in the Middlesex goal saving finely from them. Play was then all mid-field; it slackened down, too, until just before time when both goals had narrow escapes, but the whistle sounded with the scores equal.

It was unfortunate for the Middlesex eleven that Soroxton was hurt, as otherwise they would probably have taken both points. Sayers was a tower of strength to his side, but the Club defence paid him much attention. The play of Stewart at half for the Club was the outstanding feature of the match.

DIVISION 2.

St. Joseph's College v. 33rd Co. R.G.A.

This match was played on Saturday last at the Happy Valley. The teams turned out as follows:

St. Joseph's: U.M. Omar, Jackson, Ogley, Sepher, Johnson, Marcel, R. Hyndman, Banderan, E. Hyndman, P. Hyndman, R. Omar.

33rd Co. R.G.A.: Taylor, Ogden, Atwood, Garner, Long, Wright, Swan, Butler, Perkins, Nichols, Hammond.

Referee: Mr. Townsend.

Play opened in favour of the College, who made the pace fast. The dash and quick passing of their forwards gave the soldiers' defence plenty to do but when well placed, their attempts at goal left much to be desired. The civilians broke through and scored, but were ruled offside before the ball entered the net. Butler made a good try to give his side the lead, but shot wide in his final effort. At the other end, E. Hyndman gave his side the lead from a pass by Omar just before half-time. Half-time: St. Joseph's, 1; 33rd Co., 0.

Play in the second half was quite a repetition of the first and P. Hyndman added to the College score. Result: St. Joseph's, 2; 33rd Co. R.G.A., 0.

The civilians were the better team, their combination and dash giving them the advantage. 33rd Co. played quite a good game, but must admit defeat by a better team.

Kowloon v. 87th Co. R.G.A.

Played on the Navy Ground. The teams were represented by the following:

Kowloon: Jennings, Hamilton, White, Vanlangenburg, Jones, Beaumason, Taylor, Moosden, Pasco, Sutton, Taram.

87th Co. R.G.A.: Candy, Knight, Watta, Hancock, Higham, Watkinson, Bone, Turner, Small, McGregor, Bricknell.

Play throughout the game was of a very even character. Kowloon were the first to score through Sutton but soon after Small equalised. In the second half much mid-field play ensued. The soldiers' forwards got away in fine style, and

from a centre by Bricknell, Small put his side ahead. This success was short-lived, for Taram equalised with a nice shot. Result: 2-2.

Kowloon played quite good football, and with a little luck might have captured both points. The shooting of the soldiers was much better than their opponents', but their chances were not so many.

LEAGUE-CRICKET.

Hongkong C. C. v. The Navy. This match, on the Club ground on Saturday, resulted in a surprising win for the visitors. The Club batted first and put together 151 for nine wickets. Then the Navy took matters into their own hands, only two men being disposed of when the score had reached 170, the third man in being 55 not out. Scores:

Club	Navy
Capt. Gray, c Breolin, b Black 41	Lt. Murray, l.b.w., b Black 20
Lt. Murray, l.b.w., b Black 20	M. M. Mass, b Black 9
F. W. G. Evans, c Black 18	R. Kennedy, b Gibson 16
R. Kennedy, b Gibson 16	F. Syme Thompson, b Black 0
F. Syme Thompson, b Black 0	b Gibson 0
b Gibson 0	G. E. Aubrey, not out 31
G. E. Aubrey, not out 31	Lt. McConnell, b Black 2
Lt. McConnell, b Black 2	P. Jacobs, run out 7
P. Jacobs, run out 7	D. E. Donnelly, b Gibson 9
D. E. Donnelly, b Gibson 9	R. E. Smith, not out 8
R. E. Smith, not out 8	Extras 9
Extras 9	Total 151

Bowling.	O.	M.	R.	W.
Gibson 16 0 72 3				
Lee 3 0 33 0				
Black 13 4 37 5				

Navy.	O.	M.	R.	W.
Paymaster Wright, c Smith, b Mass 58				
Signalman Hack, b Donnelly 52				
Sergeant Dennis, not out 55				
Commander Gibson, Ganner Kyes, Paymaster Robinson, A. B. Henley, Mr. Black, Ch. Stoker Lee, Private Breolin, 3rd Writer Staley, did not bat.				
Extras 5				
Total (2 wickets) 170				

Bowling.	O.	M.	R.	W.
Donnelly 14 1 62 1				
Syme Thompson 3 0 17 0				
Gray 2 0 8 0				
Mass 5 0 46 1				
Evans 2 0 17 0				
Murray 2 0 15 0				

Craigengower v. R.G.A. These teams met on Saturday, an interesting game ending in a draw. Scores:

R. G. A.	O.	M.	R.	W.
Br. Athorne, l.b.w., b Graham 35				
Br. Dix, c F. Thompson, b Graham 1				
Br. Drummond, l.b.w., b Graham 38				
Sgt. Talford, b Grimmatt 8				
Gr. Green, c Noris, b Grimmatt 1				
Gr. Sharman, c and b Grimmatt 9				
Gr. Baines, c and b Grimmatt 0				
Q. M. S. Ross, c Grimmatt 0				
Graham 0				
Br. Mervin, not out 0				
Br. Armitage, b Graham 9				
Extras 5				
Total 113				

Bowling.	O.	M.	R.	W.
Grimmett 13 2 32 4				
Graham 19 2 3 0				
Abbas 6 0 18 0				

Craigengower.	O.	M.	R.	W.
F. Thompson, b Athorne 0				
D. K. Kharas, c Armitage, b Baker 7				
Baker 3				
M. H. Abbas, b Athorne 3				
J. D. Noris, c Sharman, b Baker 26				
J. S. Graham, b Baines 26				
R. Bass, c Sharman, b Baker 7				
A. W. Grimmatt, b Baines 12				
L. A. Rose, not out 0				
F. Thompson, b Baker 0				
G. Manley, not out 1				
F. Schinapel, did not bat				
Extras 13				
Total (8 wickets) 73				

Bowling.	O.	M.	R.	W.
Athorne 11 3 23 2				
Baker 10 3 24 4				
Baines 4 1 4 2				
Mann 2 0 9 0				

C. R. C. V. Royal Engineers. In this match, the outstanding players were McGregor for the Engineers and Ng Sze-kwong for the Chinese Recreation Club, these two men alone making any show against the bowling. An interesting game ended in a draw, the scores being:

SHANGHAI SHARE FRAUDS.

The Latest Developments.

Telegraphic information has been received in Shanghai confirming the arrest in Japan of J. L. Carneiro, the stockbroker wanted in connection with the alleged large frauds which were made known to the public early last week. Details concerning the arrest have not yet arrived, but it is conjectured that the man must have taken steamer from Tsingtao to Japan and have been apprehended on arrival at Moji.

L. O. Lemoe, of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, and R. Carneiro, of the Russo-Asiatic Bank, who were alleged to have been in connection with the same affair, are now definitely stated to be in Nagasaki, but whether they are under arrest or merely under the surveillance of the Japanese police authorities has not yet transpired. At any rate they appear to be where the authorities can lay their hands upon them at a moment's notice. Mr. Arthur L. Anderson, Chairman of the Shanghai Stock Exchange, has addressed the following to the Secretaries of those of the Shanghai Companies whose shares are currently dealt in on the Exchange, and whose share certificates are still in a form lending itself to comparatively easy fraud:

Dear Sirs,—In view of the unhappy situation brought about by recent fraudulent alterations to share certificates I am directed by my Committee to invite your consideration of the advisability of issuing your share certificates in such form as will reduce the possibility of alteration to a minimum.

Certain local companies have already adopted a form of share certificate which renders any alteration exceedingly difficult of concealment and it is the hope of the Committee that your Directors will employ similar measures.

I am, however, to point out that in the opinion of my Committee, the method of transferring shares by endorsement on the certificate is imperfect and that it would be better to continue the use of separate transfer deeds as is customary in Shanghai.

Furthermore, I am to suggest that wherever practicable notice should be sent to the transferor that shares are about to be taken out of his name and that, failing reply from him within a certain time, transfer will be effected. Yours faithfully, F. B. Walker, Secretary.

Royal Engineers.

Sgt. McGregor, l.b.w., b Un	O.	M.	R.	W.
Hew Fan 67				
L/O Lucas, b Un Hew Fan 0				
Opl. Adams, b Yew Man Tsun 0				
C. Q. M. S. Reakes, b Un				
Hew Fan 2				
Lt. Wahl, b Yew Man Tsun 8				
Spr. Waller, c Ng Sze Kwong, b Yew Man Tsun 0				
Spr. Millard, b Un Hew Fan 1				
L/O Osheters, c and b Yew Man Tsun 5				
S. S. White, run out 0				
S. O. Grippwell, not out 15				
Opl. Heath, b Un Hew Fan 19				
Extras 8				
Total 125				

Bowling.	O.	M.	R.	W.
Un. Hew Fan 19 2 4 50 5				
Yew Man Tsun 17 1 44 4				
H. Oshing 3 1 9 0				
Ho Wing Kin 3 0 9 0				
Ng Sze Kwong 1 0 5 0				

C. R. C.	O.	M.	R.	W.
Ng Sze Kwong, not out 64				
Ng Sze Yuen, c Wahl, b Reakes 1				
Un. Hew Fan, c White, b Reakes 12				
Ho Wing Kin, b Grippwell 5				
G. Lee, c Wahl, b Reakes 3				
H. Oshing, b Grippwell 7				
J. Wong, b Reakes 3				
Yew Man Tsun, c Waller, b Reakes 10				
Kwok Shui Yan, b Reakes 4				
Wei Lee San, not out 4				
A. J. Kew, did not bat 0				
Total (for 8 wickets) 113				

Bowling.	O.	M.	R.	W.
Reakes 14 4 39 6				
Grippwell 8 2 41 2				
Adams 4 1 13 0				
White 1 0 15 0				

THE MONEY MARKET.

Messrs. Montagu and Company's Report.

Messrs. S. Montagu and Co., in their report dated November 8, state:

Gold. The Bank of England gold reserve against its note issue shows an increase of £292,455, as compared with last week's return.

Reuter's correspondent in Washington, under date Nov. 5th, states: "The Federal Reserve Board has offered a loan of 25 millions (\$5,000,000.) in gold to the Canadian Government in order to maintain foreign exchange rates."

The West African gold output for Sept. 1917, amounted to £13,716,88 as compared with £127,138 in Sept. 1916 and £130,270 Aug. 1917.

An issue of notes in small denominations in order to relieve the need for subsidiary coinage has been projected in Japan.

Silver. The price has continued to fall since we last addressed you. With the exception of the 5th inst., when the quotation dropped 3/4, the fall has been 1/4 each day.

A certain amount been on offer each day and the tone of the market has been heavy, so that buyers have been shy in coming forward.

The China exchange has also been inclined to weakness, though the setback has been hardly so pronounced as that of the silver price, which, since the sudden rise of 3d. on the 30th ult., has ebbed 2 1/4d. in the subsequent eight working days.

The net imports of silver into India during July 1917 were heavy. The total was 8,867,058 ounces; allowing for exports amounting to 2,460,227 ounces, the net imports were 6,406,825 ounces. The net imports of silver during the months April to July inclusive, amounted to the substantial weight of 33,702,629 ounces, valued at about £5,314,000. Of this total the Indian Government was responsible for no less than 30,552,487 ounces, valued at Rs. 7,17,38,370 and capable of being minted into over 8,90,00,000 rupees.

The Indian Currency Return given below records substantial increases in the holdings of gold and silver.

Silver. (In lakhs of rupees)

	Oct. 15.	Oct. 22.	Oct. 31.
Notes in Circulation	11134	11286	11477

Reserve in silver coin and bullion	2976	2914	2948
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Gold coin and bullion in India	1817	2031	2190
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Gold out of India	193	193	193
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The stock in Bombay on November 6th consisted of 3,760 bars, the same as held on October 30th.

The stock in Shanghai on the 3rd Nov. 1917 consisted of about 25,700,000 ounces in sycee and 14,900,000 dollars, as compared with about 25,200,000 ounces in sycee and 15,200,000 dollars on the October 27th.

Quotations for bar silver p. oz. std.:—November 2, 45 1/8 cash; November 3, 44 7/8 cash; November 5, 44 1/8 cash; November 6, 44 1/4 cash; November 7, 44 cash; November 8, 43 3/4 cash. Average, 44 1/8.

The quotation to-day for cash delivery is 15/8d. below that fixed a week ago.

Bank Rate 5 per cent.

Bar Gold p. oz. std. 77/9.

"FANTASTIC" STARS.

There was a crowded house at the Victoria Theatre on Saturday night, when the "Fantastic" Stars supplied a really delightful programme. Many of those present were glad to welcome back these talented performers, Miss Hilda Felstead's monologues and solos being especially appreciated. The violin solos of Miss Nellie Black and the flute and piccolo items by Miss Elsie Black were also much enjoyed. Others who contributed to the programme were Mr. Bert Wiles and Mr. Redhead Wilson.

The "Fantastic" Stars are to commence a three nights' season at the Bijou on Boxing Night, and no doubt they will draw large audiences.

GREATEST CRIME OF THE WAR.

(By A. J. Dawson.)

A frequent visitor at one of the military hospitals situated in the Thames Valley has been greatly impressed by the story of a soldier patient who was wounded during the recent fighting to the north-east of Ypres. It seems that this soldier was found in a shell-hole by some of his comrades, one of whom was a stretcher bearer and able to render efficient first aid. He had been wounded in three places, and had lain for a long while exposed in the shell-hole. Beside him lay a comrade who had died during the hour before he was found. Examination proved that his wounds would, in any case, almost certainly have proved mortal. The reason, now fortunately well out of danger, talking of his dead comrade said:

"He was a good mate and there was nobody in our Platoon, or in the Company either, if you come to that, who didn't like him; and respect him, too. I think, though I suppose he wasn't what you'd call a very smart soldier. For one thing, he wasn't quite up to cocker on parade; a bit on the slow side, you know, and not much spring in him. But a fool could see he meant well. And then there's no denying he hated straining like poison. Last thing he wanted to do was to kill anyone. You get a little of all sorts in the Army to-day, you know. I had a section commander one time—and he'd only a Lance stripe, too—who'd been a curate before the war. But although he hated straining—I reckon he ought to have been a M. O., really—I've seen that mate of mine fighting like a wild cat, twice I remember. Anyhow. Once he'd seen the Boches at one of their real dirty tricks, with some of our wounded, and the other time it happened there were eight or ten of the Boches to three of our chaps, and I tell you my mate fairly put the wind up those Boches, the way he came at 'em with his bayonet, rearing like a mad bull. Yes, he could fight, all right, when a thing like that sort of warmed his blood. But he ought to've been a Red Cross man, really; he was wonderful keen on helping anyone who was hurt. We used to call him 'Number Thirteen's M.O.' Thirteen was the number of our Platoon, you see."

"I didn't think he was going to die when I found him alongside me in that shell-hole. In fact, I didn't think he was half so badly hit as me, to tell the truth—though I suppose I might've known better—because of the way he looked after me, giving me cold tea from his water-bottle, and that. Eh, he was a real kind chap, if ever there was one. He'd been enlisted ever since early autumn '14, before I was, and he'd never been wounded before though he'd had getting on for two years in France and only one leave. Twice he'd given up his leave to let fellows with wives go, and once he'd been in hospital with frost-bitten feet. But all the rest of the time he'd been in an 'out of trenches, and well perhaps you know what it is, it's not exactly a gentleman's life, is it?"

"To hear the way he talked to me, lying there in the mud of that shell-hole, nobody in the world would've guessed he was going west. He never said a word about dying and he passed me his water-bottle again about ten minutes before he went off, you know. I couldn't have felt worse about it if he'd been my own father. He was no older than me; but he had a kind of a fatherly way with him, too; or sort of older brother, perhaps. But when we were talking, hours before that, I happened to say something about Brother Boche and what a blighter he was. You see, the packet that bothered me most, then, was what I'd got in the face. It's all serene now. No, it wasn't a bullet or a bomb; it was a Fritz's boot. The beggar stopped to kick me in the face, as he was running by, with a lot of others that our chaps had counter-attacked. He saw I was helpless

and pretty bad so thought he'd like to make me a bit worse. I suppose. It was after that I managed to crawl into the shell-hole; so perhaps the blighter saved my life for me, after all; though if I could have stood on my feet I'd have done him in, all right, for that kick."

"Well, I was saying what a dirty, mean-spirited blighter the Boche always seemed to be and I said the worst thing about him was the way he fanked a square fight, but would always hit a man who was down. My mate chewed a bit over that and said he reckoned perhaps it was the way they were brought up in Germany. And then he went on to tell me—talking like a book, he was—what he reckoned was really the worst thing about the Boches; the worst crime of all in the war. And the thing was he said it made him feel very sorry for the Boches. That was the way bad things seemed to strike him, you see. Yes, he said there were two things seemed to him the worst of the whole blinking business, and they were sort of mixed up together. First, he said the world had been getting really better, before this war began, and the Boches had thrown it back. People had been getting kinder and better all round, he said, and the Boches had 'dreaded the world with hate'; those was his very words. He said they'd made a fairly clean world dirty; 'fouled humanity's nest,' he said; and put the clock back, and then, I don't know what he meant, but he said something about 'the sin against the Holy Ghost,' and something else about 'sinning against the light.' He said you could be sorry for the Boches, now; though I can't say I ever felt sorry for the blighters. But he said it would take many, many years before they could be forgiven. He said it wasn't so much the hurt done to the world's body that mattered, as the hurt to its spirit. He talked a lot about that, that I don't remember. 'Blows that hurt the soul,' he said; and 'Wounds that left the spirit bleeding.' Of course he was a scholar, you know."

"And the other thing that he thought so terrible was what he called the crime of the Boches against their own children. That would be hard to forgive, and harder to forget, he said; because he said, 'You can't repair children, like you repair ships and houses'. Queer, wasn't it? But that's what he said. He talked about the sins of the fathers, and that, and he said the innocent would have to suffer long after we'd finished doing the Boches in, and smashing up his Army. 'They didn't plan the crime,' he said. 'They couldn't help themselves, was what he meant; but they'd have to pay the piper all the same. And, mind you, he didn't mean money, or anything of that sort. He didn't take much stock of that. No, but he thought the Boches kids had been sort of branded; given 'The mark of the beast,' he said, for no fault of their own. 'The world's hatred is a terrible thing,' he said, 'when it's a just hatred. And that's what the Boches have added their own children with, he reckoned. 'They thought of territory and plunder' he said; 'but they'd have done their children less harm if they'd cut off one arm from each of them.'"

"Aye, he was a queer fellow, and I can't tell you half or a quarter what he said; but I know he made me feel that the Boches' worst crime was something you don't read about in the papers. He said they'd struck the light to-day; you can get them from out of life for the children of the whole world; but for their own kids, he said, they'd blighted them for ever, and robbed them of all the sort of sporting chance in life that God meant 'em to have. That was about the size of it, as I remember."

Mr. T. M. Ainscough.

Mr. T. M. Ainscough has been appointed H. M. Trade Commissioner for India. In 1914, 1915 he was Special Commissioner in China for the Board of Trade. Commercial Intelligence Department. We understand that Mr. Ainscough's headquarters will be in Calcutta.

HUNGER DISEASES IN GERMANY.

Civilian Death Rate as High as in Army.

That Germany is suffering from diseases which are the direct outcome of the lack of food is beyond doubt, and a well-informed correspondent who favours us from time to time with reliable information as to conditions speaks of "night blindness." This is a famine epidemic, and causes complete loss of the power of vision in twilight. The death-rate among young children and persons above middle age is abnormal.

A director of one of the large Berlin insurance companies told a Norwegian recently that the mortality-rate among the civilians equalled, if it did not exceed, that in the army. The organ of the German insurance companies, *Wirtschaftliche Versicherungs-Zeitung*, printed an article which contained the following passages:

"Look at all those people you meet in the streets. Look at their hollow cheeks, and how their collars have become too large. There is no possibility of deception here. Ask any doctor you please or read the balance-sheets and reports of insurance companies, and it is easy to trace the results of malnutrition. The danger lies in the fact that the mortality among civilians is beginning to compete with the real war mortality, and it is useless to try to deceive ourselves and shut our eyes to this fact."

Increased death-rate has been accompanied by a marked decline in birth-rate. Deaths are actually in excess of births. Here are figures for Munich:

Births.	Deaths.
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MARKET PRICES

Hongkong, October 3, 1917.

BUTCHER MEAT.

Beef Sirloin—Mei Lung Pa	lb. 21
Prime Cut	" 21
Corned—Ham Ngau Yuk	" 20
Roast—Shiu	" 18
Breast—Ngau Nam	" 18
Soup—Tong Yuk	" 16
Steak—Ngau Yuk Pa	" 20
do.—Sirloin—Ngau Lau	" 30
Sausages—Ngau Cheung	No. 1 26
Butcher's Brains—No	per set 9
Tongue, fresh—Ngau Li	each 45
do.—corned—Ham Ngau Li	" 80
Head—Ngau Tau	" 89
Heart—Ngau Sam	lb. 13
Hump, Salt—Ngau Kin	" 18
Kidney—Ngau Kin	each 10
Kidney—Ngau Yin	" 9
Tail—Ngau Mei	" 12
Liver—Ngau Kon	lb. 18
Tripe (undressed)—Ngau To	" 6
Calves' Head & Feet—Ngau Tsai-ku	set \$1.00
Mutton Chop—Yeung Pei Kwai	lb. 26
Leg—Yeung Pei	" 26
Shoulder—Yeung Shau	" 24
Saddle—Yeung On Yuk	" 16
Pigs Chittings—Chu Ohong	" 4
Brains—Chu No	per set 3
Feet—Chu Kuek	lb. 14
Fry—Chu Ohap	" 20
Head—Chu Tau	" 18
Heart—Chu Sam	each 10
Kidney—Chu Yiu	" 10
Liver—Chu Sam	lb. 30
Pork Chop—Chu Pai Kwai	" 24
Leg—Chu Pei	" 28
Loins—	" 28
Fat or Lard—Chu Yau	" 21
Sheep's Head and Feet—Yeung Tau Keuk	set 60
Heart—Yeung Sam	each 8
Kidney—Yeung Yiu	" 12
Liver—Yeung Kon	lb. 26
Smoking Pigs to order—Chu Tsai	" 20
Suet, Beef—Shang Ngau Yau	" 20
Mutton—Shang Yeung Yau	" 20
Veal—Ngau Tsai Yuk	" 20
Sausages—Ngau Tsai Cheung	No. 1 " 20

FISH.

Barbel—Ks Yu	lb. 28
Bream—Pin Yu	" 28
Canton Fresh Water Fish—Hoi Sin Yu	" 22
Carp—Li Yu	" 18
Codfish—Ohik Yu	" 14
Codfish—Mun Yu	" 16
Croaker—Hoi	" 18
Crab—Muk Yu	" 32
Do.—Shi Mang Yu	" 32
Dace—Wong Mei Lap	" 10
Dog Fish—Tit To Sha	" 14
Eels, Conger—Hoi Man	" 18
do.—fresh water—Tam Sui Yu	" 18
Yellow—Wong Sin	" 34
Frogs—Tin Kai	" 36
Garoupa—Shuk Pan	" 44
Gudgeon—Pak Kap Yu	" 17
Herring—Tao Pak	" 22
Halibut—Cheung Kwan Kap	" 22
Labrus—Wong Fa Yu	" 20
Loach—Wu Yu	" 26
Lobster—Lung Ha	" 29
Mackerel—Chi Yu	" 22
Monk Fish—Mong Yu	" 34
Mullet—Chai Yu	" 16
Oysters—Shang Ho	" 18
Parrot Fish—Kai Kung Yu	" 14
Perch—Tau Lo	" 18
Pike—Fa Pau Fong	" 18
Plaice—Pan Yu	" 16
Pomfret, Black—Hak Ohong	" 28
Pomfret, White—Pak Ohong	" 32
Prawns—Minz Ha	" 34
Ray—Pai Pa Sha	" 10
Rock Fish—Shuk Kiu Kung	" 15
Roach—Ohun Yu	" 14
Salmon—Ma Yau	" 32
Shark—Sha Yu	" 8
Skate—Po Yu	" 8
Shrimps—Hoi	" 25
Snapper—Lap Yu	" 28
Soles—Tat Sha Yu	" 28
Tench—Wan Yu	" 18
Turbot—Oho How Yu	" 18
Turtle, small, fresh water—Keuk Yu	" 80

FRUITS.

Almonds—Bang Yan	lb. 35
Apples (California)—Kam Shan Ping Kho	" 18
do.—(Ohio)—Tin Ohun Ping Kho	" 18
Bananas, fragrant, Canton—San Shing Heung Chin	" 5
do.—(Hawaii)—Macao—San Heung Chin	" 5
Chestnuts, Chinese—Foong Lat	" 11
Chestnuts, Young To	" 11
Coconuts—Ye Tee	each 10
Grapes—Po Tai Tsz	lb. 28
Lemons—China—Ling Mung	" 8
do.—America—Kam Shan Ling Mung	each 7
Lichens Dried—(small stones)—Lai Chi Kon	lb. 28
do.—Fresh	" 28
Oranges, (Canton) (Sweet)—Shan-shang Tin Ching	" 1
do.—Sweet	" 1
Pears, (American)—Kam San Shui Lay	" 10
do.—(Canton), Cooking—Sha Li	" 10
Peanuts—Pa Shang	" 10

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HIGHEST
GRADE
JAMAICA
LEAF.
TRY
BOUQUETS.



THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS ISSUED BY
BRITISH-AMERICAN TOBACCO CO., LTD.

POST OFFICE.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

The Post Office will be open on Monday 24th, Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th inst., Monday 31st and Tuesday 1st January 1918 from 8 to 9 a.m.

There will be one collection and one delivery of ordinary correspondence each day as on Sunday.

There will be a delivery of Registered correspondence at 9 a.m. on the 24th and 25th December and 1st January.

The Money Order Office will be entirely closed during the holidays.

The Parcel Post Service to British East Africa and Egypt (except for members of the Expeditionary Forces), and to Abyssinia, Bagdad, Eritrea, French Somaliland, Italian Somaliland, Portuguese East Africa, Zanzibar and Russia have been suspended.

Correspondence addressed to enemy subjects in China, Siberia and Portuguese East Africa, Persia and Morocco cannot be transmitted.

The Services to Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire are suspended.

Unclaimed parcels for the United Kingdom will in future be forwarded from Hongkong in bags and the Public are therefore advised to pack such parcels very carefully.

Letters franked at the 4 cents rate addressed to Yunnan and Mengtse and other places in the Province of Yunnan should be superscribed with the words "For delivery by the Chinese Post Office."

Parcels for Greece cannot be accepted for transmission unless accompanied by a special permit issued by the British Minister at Athens.

Arrangements have been made for the transmission of parcels to the United Kingdom via Canada.

The rates of postage are as follows:—
Parcel not over 5 lbs. ... 30 cents.
Do. 7 lbs. ... 40 cents.
Do. 11 lbs. ... 50 cents.

No insurance can be effected on parcels sent by this route.

IMPORT PROHIBITIONS.

The public are informed that the undervalued articles are prohibited from importation into the United Kingdom, either by letter post or by parcel post.

Gold manufactured or unmanufactured including gold coin and articles consisting partly of or containing gold; All manufactures of Silver other than silver watches and silver watch cases; Jewellery of any description.

Letters and Parcels containing such articles cannot therefore be accepted for transmission by the Post Office.

The Parcel Post service to Aden (except parcels of ordinary correspondence each day as on Sunday) has been suspended.

FRENCH PARCEL REGULATIONS.

The Public are informed that the new regulations adopted by the French Customs which stipulate that parcels addressed to France, Corsica and Algeria must fill in the columns of the regular Customs Declaration particularly and exactly, omitting none of the headings specified therein.

It is further absolutely necessary to show in the aforesaid declaration (1) The full name and address of the addressee; (2) A statement as to whether the contents are intended for State supplies or not.

LOCAL AND REGULAR MAILS OUTWARD.

Tai O.—Week days, 5 p.m.
Tai Po.—Week days, 10 a.m.; Sundays, 2.30 p.m.
Cheung Chow.—Week days, 7.30 a.m. and 5 p.m.
Sutaukok, Shatin and Sheungshui.—Week days, 4 p.m.
Aberdeen, Antau, Ping Shan, Sai Kung, Sinitan and Stanley.—Week days, 4.30 p.m.
Canton, Sanabul, and Wuchow.—Week days, 7.30 a.m.; Registration 5 p.m.; Letters 6 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m.
Macao.—Week days, 7.15 a.m.; 1.30 p.m.; Sundays, 9 a.m.
Kowloon.—Week days, 6 p.m. Except Saturdays; Sundays, 5 p.m.
Pamtau and Sanmel.—Week days, 5 p.m.; Sundays, 4 p.m.
Shamshun.—Week days, 10 a.m.; 4 p.m.; Sundays, 9 a.m.

FROM SHEUNGWAN WESTERN BRANCH P.O.

Macao.—Week days, 7.30 a.m.; 1.30 p.m.; Sundays, 8.30 a.m.; Holidays, 7.30 a.m.; 1.30 p.m.
Canton.—Week days, 7.30 a.m.; 9.30 p.m.; Sundays, 9.30 p.m.; Holidays, 7.30 a.m.; 9.30 p.m.
Tai Fung Tung.—Week days, 9.30 p.m.; Sundays, 9.30 p.m.; Holidays, 9.30 p.m.
Shak Ki.—Week days, 9.30 p.m.; Sundays, 9.30 p.m.; Holidays, 9.30 p.m.
Kowloon.—Week days, 6 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m.; Holidays, 6 p.m.
Kamshun.—Week days, 6 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m.; Holidays, 6 p.m.
Kaukung.—Week days, 6 p.m.; Except Saturdays; Sundays, 5 p.m.; Holidays, 6 p.m.

NOTICES.

WAI KEE.

FLAG & SAILMAKER
No. 129, Des Voeux Road Central
Top Floor,
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WEATHER REPORT.

December 24, 12h. 65m.—No return from Japan stations. The anticyclone has regained intensity; pressure has increased slightly to moderately at all continental stations, and decreased slightly over the Philippines.

Fresh to strong monsoon will prevail along the China Coast, and over the N. China Sea.

Hongkong Rainfall for the 24 hours ending at 10 a.m. to-day, 0.60 inch. Total since January 1st 31.43 inches against an average of 34.73 inches.

FORECAST FOR THE 24 HOURS ENDING AT NOON TO-MORROW.

District	Forecast
1 Hongkong to Cap. Rock	N.E. winds, fresh; cloudy, probably some drizzling rain.
2 Formosa Channel	N. winds, strong.
3 South coast of China bet. two m. and Lamcocks	The same as No. 1.
4 South coast of China bet. two m. and Hainan	The same as No. 1.

China Coast Meteorological Register.
December 21, a.m.

Station	Hour	Barometer	Temperature	Humidity	Wind	Weather
Vostock	5a	30.02	12	—	—	2c
Nomuro	5a	—	—	—	—	—
Hakodate	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fukuo	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yokohama	—	—	—	—	—	—
Osaka	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kobe	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manila	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yokohama	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shanghai	—	—	—	—	—	—
Amoy	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swatow	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tainan	—	—	—	—	—	—
Taipei	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tientsin	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peking	—	—	—	—	—	—
Harbin	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manchuria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ussuriysk	—	—	—	—	—	—
Verkhne-Amursk	—	—	—	—	—	—
Khabarovsk	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yokohama	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shanghai	—	—	—	—	—	—
Amoy	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swatow	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tainan	—	—	—	—	—	—
Taipei	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tientsin	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peking	—	—	—	—	—	—
Harbin	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manchuria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ussuriysk	—	—	—	—	—	—
Verkhne-Amursk	—	—	—	—	—	—
Khabarovsk	—	—	—	—	—	—

C. W. JEFFRIES, Chief Assistant.

Hongkong Observatory, Dec. 22, 1917.
Barometer reduced to sea level at 2.3 degrees Fahrenheit on the level of the sea in inches, 30.02 and 30.03.

1 Barometer, in the shade, in degrees Fahrenheit.

2 Humidity, in percentage of saturation the humidity of air saturated with moisture being 100.

3 Direction of Wind, to two points.

4 Force of Wind, according to Beaufort Scale.

State of Weather, b. blue sky, c. detached cloud, d. drizzling rain, f. fog, g. gloomy, h. hail, i. lightning, o. overcast, p. passing shower, s. equally, r. rain, s. snow, t. thunder, v. visibility, w. few wet.

METEOROLOGICAL.

Previous	Day	On date	On date
Barometer	29.97	30.05	30.03
Temperature	65	61	62
Humidity	78	91	63
Wind Direction	E. E. N.N.E.	—	—
Force	4	2	2
Weather	0	0	0
Rain	0.00	0.00	0.00

H.K. Observatory, Dec. 22, 1917.
T. F. CLAXTON, Director.

TIDE TABLE.

From 24th Dec. to 30th Dec.

Time	High Water	Low Water
Mon. 24	6.15	1.15
Tues. 25	6.15	1.15
Wed. 26	6.15	1.15
Thurs. 27	6.15	1.15
Fri. 28	6.15	1.15
Sat. 29	6.15	1.15
Sun. 30	6.15	1.15

NOTICES.

1917

CHRISTMAS DINNER

MID-DAY

MENU.

(No Chits or Tickets)

PRICE \$1.00

(Cash Account only.)

Hors D'oeuvres

Soup

1 Cream de Asparagus

2 Beef Tea

Fish

3 Boiled Schnapper & Egg Sauce

4 Fried Sole and Lemons

Entrees

5 Stewed Chicken with onion a la Polonnaise

6 Game Pie

7 Sausage and Mashed Potatoes

Joints

8 Roast Saddle of Beef and Yorkshire Pudding

9 Boiled York Ham

Poultry

10 Roast Turkey and Cranberry Sauce

11 Roast Capon and Bread Sauce

12 Roast Goose and Apple Sauce

Vegetables

13 Boiled potatoes

14 Roast potatoes

15 Petis Pois 1 Cauliflowers

Entremets

17 Plum Pudding 18 Mince Pie

19 Apple Pie 20 Fruit Au Cream

Fruits

21 Oranges, Apples, Muscatells, Almonds, Walnuts, and Chestnuts &c.

Dessert

22 American Cheese

23 Dutch Cheese

24 Beetroots 25 Mixed Salads

26 Celery

Tea or Coffee.

CHRISTMAS DINNER.

EVENING

MENU

(No Chits or Tickets)

PRICE \$1.00

(Cash Account only.)

Hors D'oeuvres

Soup

1 Clam Chowder

2 Consomme au Vermicelli

Fish

3 Fried Schnapper

4 Cold Salmon and Mayonnaise

Entrees

5 Stewed Pigeon a la Polonnaise

6 Lamb Cutlet and Petis Pois

7 Chicken in Aspic

Joints

8 Roast Saddle of Beef and Horradish Sauce

9 Boiled York Ham

Poultry

10 Roast Turkey (Stuffed) and Cranberry Sauce

11 Roast Chicken & Chipped Potatoes

12 Roast Goose and Apple Sauce

Vegetables

13 Boiled Potatoes

14 Roast Potatoes

15 Petis Pois

16 Boiled cabbage

Entremets

17 Plum Pudding

18 Mince Pie

19 Apple Pie

20 Blanc Mange and Apricots

Fruit

21 Oranges, Apples, Muscatells, Almonds, Walnuts, and Chestnuts &c.

Dessert

22 American Cheese

23 Dutch Cheese

24 Beetroots 25 Mixed Salad

26 Celery

Tea or Coffee.

To facilitate Service and prevent Confusion please order by number only.

We sell only the very best brands of Wines, Ales and Liqueurs.

WISHING YOU A MERRY XMAS.

THE ALEXANDRA CAFE.

MRS. N. BABBAE,

Manageress.

Spanish Shipping Losses.

A telegram from Bayonne states that the Bilbao mercantile marine has had 30 vessels torpedoed, of a tonnage of 65,407, and five vessels mined, of a tonnage of 12,503. Other accidents include 16 vessels of a tonnage of 40,684, making a total of 51 vessels of an aggregate tonnage of 113,594.

at morning, a afternoon.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

TO-NIGHT TO-NIGHT

Special Xmas Week Attraction

OF

RICHARD AND GLADIE

PRESENTING LATEST

BALL ROOM DANCES

Manana Tango Ragtime.

MAXIE, BRESILIENNE.

ETC. ETC.

Bert Wiles

THE RAGTIME XYLOPHONE KING and

IMPERSONATER

Bell Chaplin as Charlie Chaplin

Not on the Screen but 20 minutes of comedy on the stage, together with Miss Gladie.

THE SPECTACULAR SENSATION OF THE AGE

DAMON AND PYTHIAS

FIVE REELS OF LOVE & ROMANCE

VICTORIA THEATRE MATINEE, TO-DAY.

Also Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 7.15 Session only.

NOTICES.

THE DAIRY FARM CO., LTD.

APPLICATION has been made to the Directors of this Company to issue to ADELINA O. DE GUTIERREZ of Hongkong a duplicate certificate of one share in this Company or other Certificate or Certificates in lieu thereof upon the statement that the original certificate for one share No. 7217 dated 26th October 1896 has been lost or destroyed. AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that if within 30 days from the date hereof no claim or representation in respect of such original certificate is made to the Directors they will proceed to deal with such application for certificate.

M. MANUK,

Secretary.

Dated 1st day of December, 1917.

THE HONGKONG ELECTRIC CO., LTD.

Before purchasing Electrical Appliances for use in connection with the Company's supply, Consumers are recommended to communicate with the Under-Signed with a view to ascertaining—

1. If the Appliances, and their use, are in accordance with the Company's Regulations.
2. If the wiring of the premises, where it is intended to instal such Appliances is suitable.

It is important that the foregoing information should be obtained from the Company, as not only does the neglect to do so endanger property by fire but in addition may lead to a contravention of the Ordinance.

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO.,

Agents.

Hongkong, 14th December, 1917.

NOTICE.

TO ALL CONCERNED:

I, F. N. TYSON, Master of the British Steamer "Hermelin" hereby give notice that I will not be responsible for any debt or debts contracted by the members of my crew during the ship's stay in Hongkong.